

## US011299075B2

# (12) United States Patent Jones et al.

## (10) Patent No.: US 11,299,075 B2

## (45) **Date of Patent:** Apr. 12, 2022

## (54) ELECTRICAL ASSEMBLY

(71) Applicant: Lear Corporation, Southfield, MI (US)

(72) Inventors: Jeffrey Jones, Ann Arbor, MI (US);

Raúl Ricart, Valls (ES); Antoni Ferré

Fàbregas, Valls (ES)

(73) Assignee: Lear Corporation, Southfield, MI (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 374 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 16/294,289

(22) Filed: Mar. 6, 2019

## (65) Prior Publication Data

US 2020/0282880 A1 Sep. 10, 2020

(51) Int. Cl.

B60N 2/50 (2006.01)

H02B 1/20 (2006.01)

B60N 2/07 (2006.01)

B60N 2/02 (2006.01)

## (58) Field of Classification Search

CPC ..... B60N 2/501; B60N 2/502; B60N 2/0715; B60N 2002/0264; H02B 1/20; H02B 1/22; B60R 16/0315

See application file for complete search history.

## (56) References Cited

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,126,143 A 8/1938 McGregor 2,263,554 A 11/1941 Brach

2,480,622 A	8/1949	Warnock
2,678,082 A	5/1954	Nathan
3,181,102 A	4/1965	Fehr
3,213,403 A	10/1965	Hermann
3,268,848 A	8/1966	Adams
3,603,918 A	9/1971	Woertz
3,933,403 A	1/1976	Rubesamen et al.
3,940,182 A	2/1976	Tamura
4,020,769 A	5/1977	Keir
4,198,025 A	4/1980	Lowe et al.
	(Con	tinued)

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN	101492020 A	7/2009
CN	101615770 A	12/2009
	(Cont	inued)

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

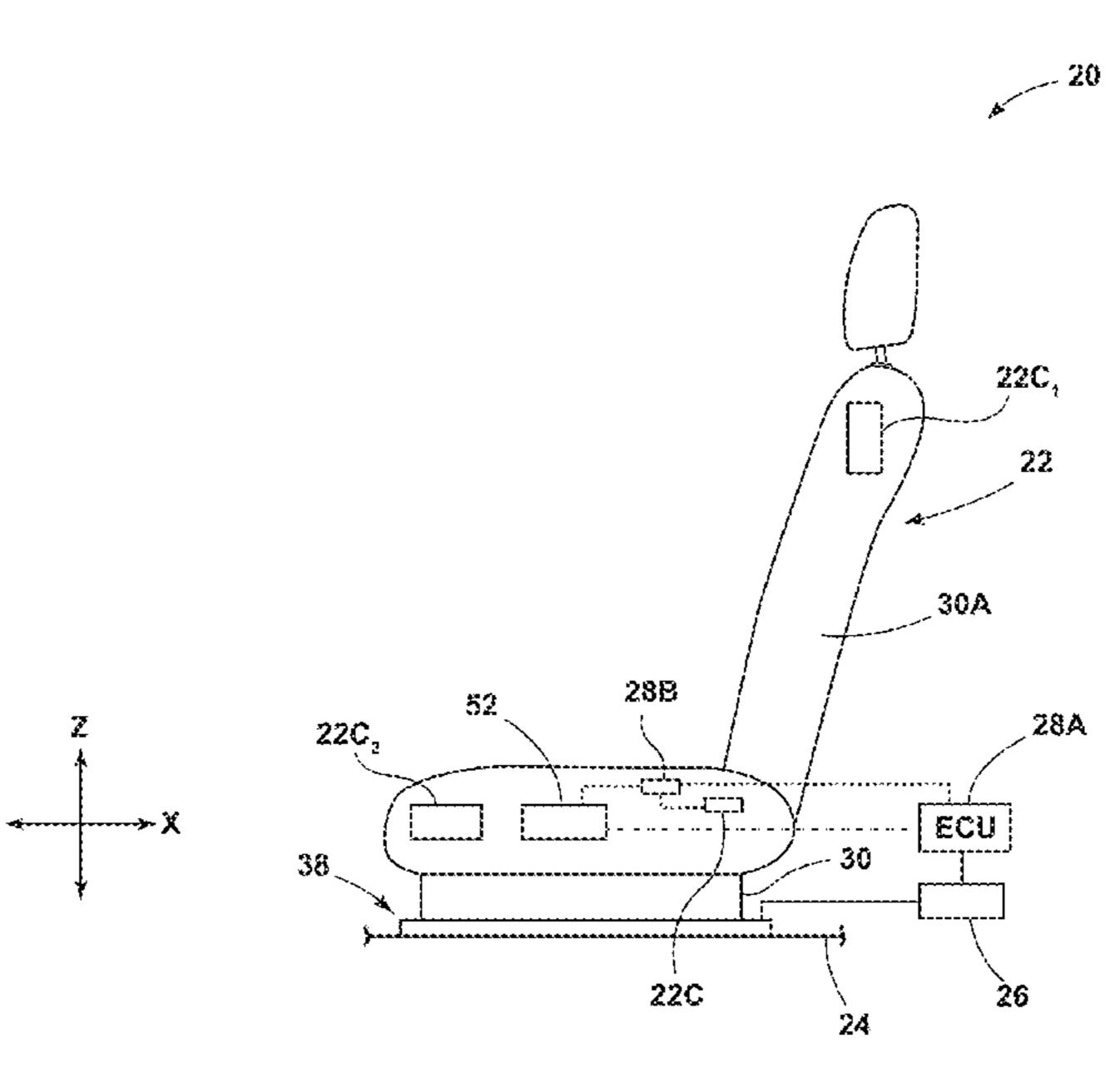
Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 16/597,187, filed Oct. 9, 2019. (Continued)

Primary Examiner — Tan Le (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Fishman Stewart PLLC

## (57) ABSTRACT

An electrical assembly includes a track assembly, a control circuit, and a support assembly. The track assembly may include a first bus bar, and/or the first bus bar may be configured for connection with a first terminal of a power source. The track assembly may include a second track that may have a second bus bar, and/or the second bus bar may be configured for connection with a second terminal of said power source. The support assembly may be configured for connection with the track in a first orientation and/or in a second orientation. The support assembly may include a positive terminal and/or a negative terminal.

## 20 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets

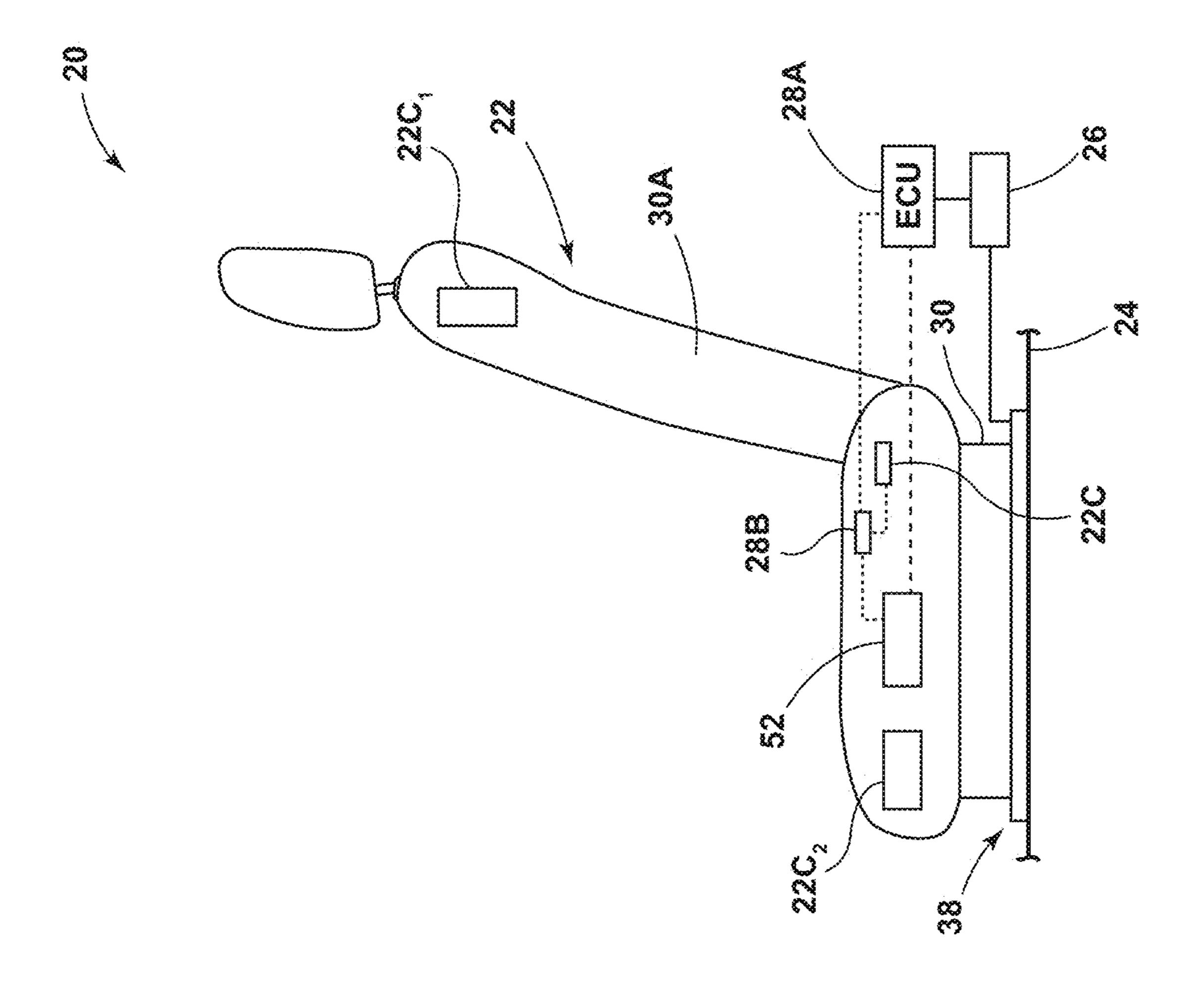


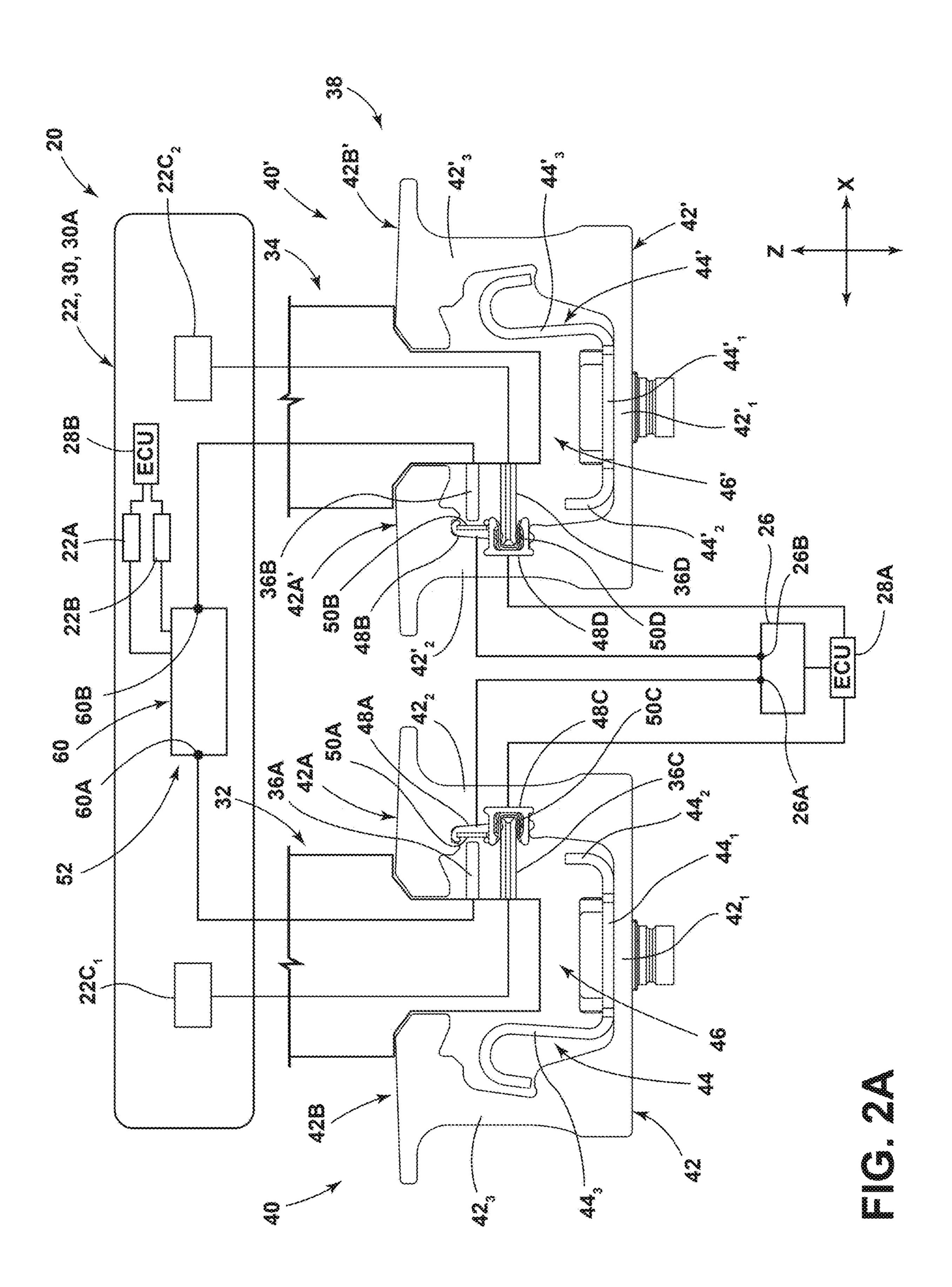
# US 11,299,075 B2 Page 2

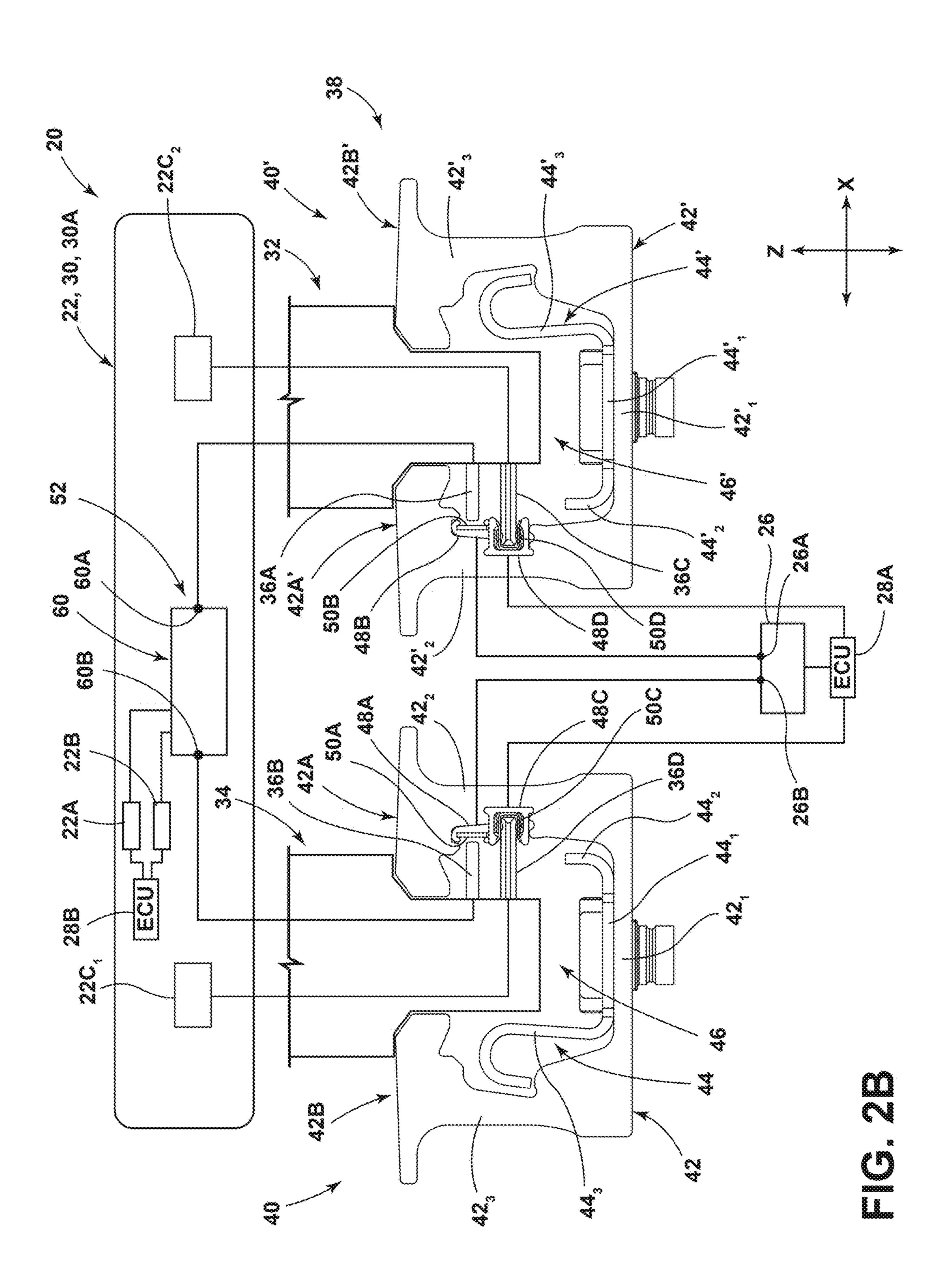
(56)		Referen	ces Cited		7,271,501			Dukart et al.	
7	U.S. 1	PATENT	DOCUMENTS		7,293,831	B2	11/2007		
4 2 42 2 40		1/1001	~ 1 1 . 1		7,300,091			Nihonmatsu et al. Ventura et al.	
4,243,248 4,282,631			Scholz et al. Uehara et al.		7,348,687			Aichriedler et al.	
4,511,187		4/1985			7,363,194			Schlick et al.	
4,575,295			Rebentisch		7,370,831			Laib et al.	
4,618,808			Ish-Shalom et al.		7,388,466 7,389,960			Ghabra et al. Mitchell et al.	
4,707,030 4,711,589		11/1987 12/1987	Goodbred		7,416,042			Czaykowska et al.	
4,763,360			Daniels et al.		7,434,883			Deptolla	
4,776,809		10/1988			, ,			Goossens et al. Insalaco et al.	
, ,			Condit et al.  Mobley	H01H 85/2035	, ,			Henley et al.	
7,072,557	11	0/1/0/	141001Cy	337/191	7,505,754	B2	3/2009	Kazmierczak et al.	
4,853,555		8/1989			7,523,913 7,556,233			Mizuno et al. Gryp et al.	
4,961,559		10/1990	Raymor Munchow et al.		7,560,235			Jacas-Miret et al.	
4,969,621 4,987,316			White et al.		7,633,301	B2	12/2009	Steenwyk et al.	
5,137,331		8/1992			7,661,637			Mejuhas et al.	
5,167,393			Hayakawa et al.		7,665,939 7,739,820		6/2010	Cardona Frank	
5,192,045 5,222,814		5/1993 6/1993	Kamada et al. Boelryk		7,744,386			Speidel et al.	
5,322,982			Leger et al.		7,980,525				
5,332,290			Borlinghaus et al.		7,980,798 8,010,255			Kuehn et al. Darraba	
5,348,373 5,362,241			Stiennon Matsuoka et al.		8,146,991			Stanz et al.	
5,446,442			Swart et al.		8,278,840			Logiudice et al.	
5,466,892			Howard et al.		8,282,326			Krostue et al. Schulze et al.	
5,489,173		2/1996			8,463,501		6/2013		
5,582,381 5,599,086		2/1990	Graf et al. Dutta		8,536,928	B1	9/2013	Gagne et al.	
5,618,192		4/1997			8,648,613			Ewerhart et al.	
5,655,816			Magnuson et al.		8,702,170 8,757,720			Abraham et al. Hurst, III et al.	
5,676,341 5,696,409			Tarusawa et al. Handman et al.		, ,			Schebaum et al.	
, ,			Weber et al.					Nonomiya	
5,796,177			Werbelow et al.		8,936,526 8,967,719			Boutouil et al. Ngiau et al.	
5,800,015 5,899,532			Tsuchiya et al. Paisley et al.		RE45,456			Sinclair et al.	
5,918,847			Couasnon		9,010,712			Gray et al.	
5,921,606			Moradell et al.		9,018,869			Yuasa et al. Kostin et al.	
5,964,442 5,964,815			Wingblad et al. Wallace et al.		9,162,590			Nagura et al.	
6,036,157			Baroin et al.		9,174,604	B2	11/2015	Wellhoefer et al.	
6,142,718	A	11/2000	Kroll		9,242,580 9,318,922			Schebaum et al. Hall et al.	
6,150,774			Mueller et al.		9,340,125			Stutika et al.	
6,166,451 6,216,995		12/2000 4/2001	•		9,346,428	B2	5/2016	Bortolin	
6,227,595	B1	5/2001	Hamelin et al.		9,422,058 9,561,770			Fischer et al. Sievers et al.	
6,290,516		9/2001			9,501,770		3/2017		
6,296,498 6,299,230		10/2001 10/2001	_		9,610,862			Bonk et al.	
/ /			Sjostrom et al.		9,663,232			Porter et al.	
6,325,645		12/2001			9,673,583 9,701,217			Hudson et al. Eckenroth et al.	
6,357,814 6,400,259			Boisset et al. Bourcart et al.		9,731,628			Rao et al.	
6,405,988			Taylor et al.		9,758,061			Pluta et al.	
6,422,596			Fendt et al.		9,789,834 9,796,304			Rapp et al. Salter et al.	
6,439,531 6,480,144			Severini et al. Miller et al.		9,815,425			Rao et al.	
6,693,368			Schumann et al.		9,821,681			Rao et al.	
6,710,470			Bauer et al.		9,840,220 9,919,624			Van Buskirk et al. Cziomer et al.	
6,719,350 6,736,458			Duchateau et al. Chabanne et al.		9,950,682			Gramenos et al.	
6,772,056			Mattes et al.		10,059,232			-	
6,805,375	B2	10/2004	Enders et al.		10,160,351			Sugimoto et al. Nolte et al.	
, ,			Kazmierczak Schirmer et al.		10,479,227		12/2019		
6,882,162 6,960,993			Mattes et al.		10,547,135			Sugiura	
7,042,342	B2	5/2006	Luo et al.		10,549,659			Sullivan et al.	
7,083,437			Mackness Mitchell et al		10,654,378 10,882,420		5/2020	Pons Ricart	R60N 2/0715
7,086,874 7,113,541			Mitchell et al. Lys et al.		2005/0046367			Wevers et al.	DOON 2/0/13
7,159,899			Nitschke et al.		2005/0089367			Sempliner	
, ,			Kazmierczak		2005/0150705			Vincent et al.	
7,188,805			Henley et al.		2005/0211835			Henley et al.	
7,207,541	DΖ	<del>4</del> /200/	Frohnhaus et al.		2005/0215098	Al	9/2003	Muramatsu et al.	

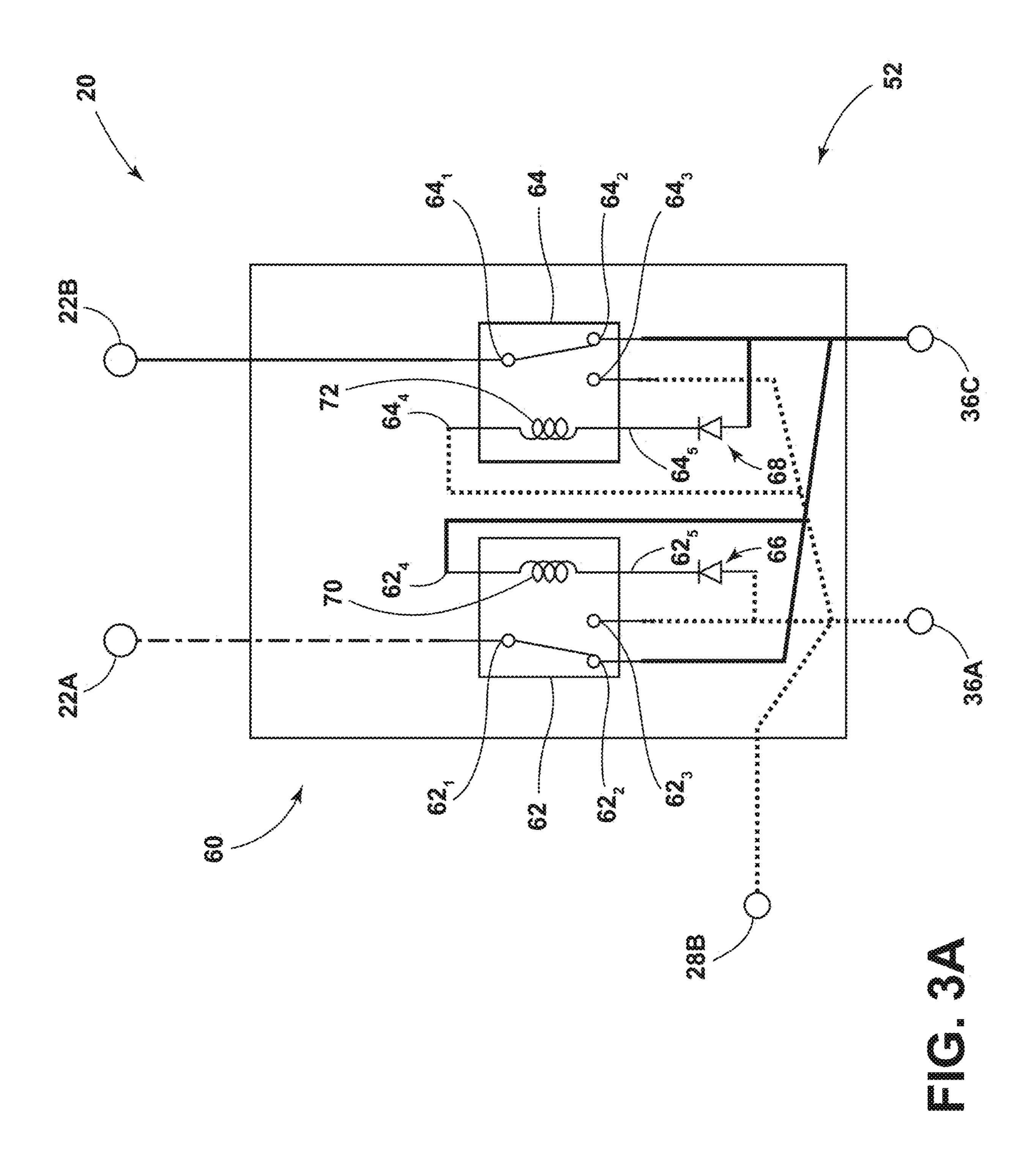
# US 11,299,075 B2 Page 3

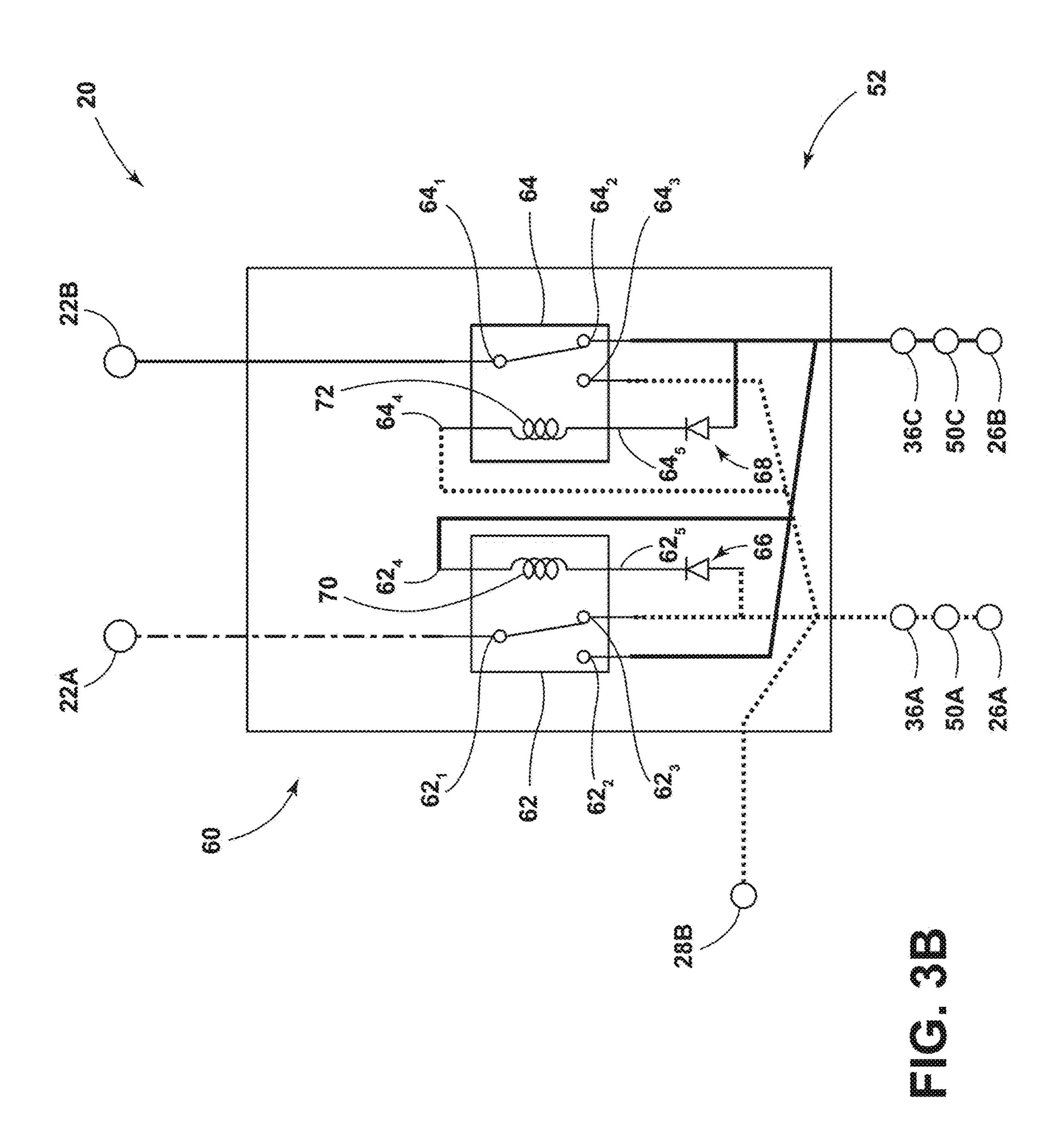
(56)		Referen	ces Cited					Ricart et al. Ricart	B60R 21/207
	U.S.	PATENT	DOCUMENTS		2020/019	94936 A1	6/2020	Ricart et al. Lammers et al.	DOOK 21/207
2005/0230543	A1	10/2005	Laib et al.		2020/020	07241 A1	7/2020	Moulin et al.	
2005/0258676			Mitchell et al.		2020/020	52367 A1*	8/2020	Fernandez Banares	
2006/0131470 2006/0208549			Yamada et al. Hancock	R60N 2/0232	2020/026	59754 A1	8/2020	Ricart et al.	B60R 16/027
2000/0200349	AI	9/2000	Trancock	297/342				Ricart et al.	
2006/0220411	A1		Pathak et al.						
2008/0021602			Kingham et al.			FOREIGN	I PATE	NT DOCUMENTS	S
2008/0084085 2008/0090432		-	Mizuno et al. Patterson et al.		CNI	2021002	.02 11	0/0010	
2009/0014584			Rudduck et al.		CN CN	2031902 2037992		9/2013 8/2014	
2009/0129105	A1	5/2009	Kusu et al.		CN	1061669		11/2016	
2009/0251920			Kino et al.		CN	1065155	68 A	3/2017	
2009/0302665 2009/0319212		12/2009	Cech et al.		CN	1086046		9/2018	
2010/0117275			Nakamura		DE DE	37104 297121	76 A1 80 III	10/1987 9/1997	
2011/0024595			Oi et al.		DE	200214		5/2001	
2012/0112032		5/2012			DE	2020050137	'14 U1	12/2005	
2013/0020459 2013/0035994			Moriyama et al. Pattan et al.		DE	1020050074		3/2006	
2013/0033934			Anticuar et al.		DE DE	1020060220 1020100170		12/2006 2/2011	
2014/0265479	A1	9/2014	Bennett		DE	1020100170		2/2011	
2015/0048206			Deloubes		DE	1020110562		2/2013	
2015/0069807 2015/0083882			Kienke Stutika et al.		DE	2020141023		6/2014	
2015/0083882			Inoue et al.		DE DE	1020142177 1020152121		3/2015 12/2015	
2015/0236462			Davidson, Jr. et al.		DE	1120150003		10/2016	
2016/0039314			Anticuar et al.		DE	1020161134		4/2017	
2016/0154170 2016/0236613		6/2016 8/2016	Thompson et al.		EP		73 A1	10/1993	
2010/0230013			Bonk et al.		EP EP		90 A1 47 A1	7/1997 1/2002	
2017/0080826			Bonk et al.		EP		24 A1	1/2002 5/2002	
2017/0166093			Cziomer et al.		EP		04 A2	6/2004	
2017/0261343 2017/0291507			Lanter et al. Hattori et al.		EP		09 B1	3/2011	
2017/0251307	_		Yadav	H01R 13/73	EP EP		61 B1 26 A1	8/2012 4/2017	
2018/0017189	A1	1/2018			FR		314 A1	11/1998	
2018/0039917		_ ,	Buttolo et al.		FR		81 B1	4/2006	
2018/0086232 2018/0105072		3/2018 4/2018			FR		29 A1	4/2011	
2018/0148011			Zaugg et al.		FR GB		51 A1 25 A	8/2013 12/1975	
2018/0183623			Schoenfeld et al.		JР	H063053		11/1994	
2018/0275648			Ramalingam		JP		91 B2	8/2002	
2019/0001846 2019/0084453			Jackson et al. Petit et al.		JP	20032277		8/2003	
2019/0126786			Dry et al.		JP JP	20051195 20071121		5/2005 5/2007	
2019/0337413		11/2019	Romer		JP	20071121		7/2008	
2019/0337414			Condamin et al.		JP		62 B2	2/2009	
2019/0337415 2019/0337416			Condamin et al. Condamin et al.		JP	20132307		11/2013	
2019/0337417			Condamin et al.		WO WO	20030022	65 A1	11/2001 1/2003	
2019/0337418	A1	11/2019	Condamin et al.		WO	20030022		11/2003	
2019/0337419			Condamin et al.		WO	20050682	47 A2	7/2005	
2019/0337420 2019/0337421			Condamin et al. Condamin et al.						
2019/0337421			Condamin et al.			OTH	ER PU	BLICATIONS	
2019/0337471		11/2019							
2019/0379187			Christensen et al.			_		572,989, filed Nov. 4	
2019/0389336 2020/0009995		1/2019	Malinowski et al. Sonar			•		711,661, filed Dec. 1	·
2020/0055423		-	Prozzi et al.				-	o. 3, 2021 related to	corresponding
2020/0079244	A1	3/2020	Carbone et al.		Chinese P	atent Applicat	ion No.	202010002498.0.	
2020/0180516			Moulin		* 01101 1	v ovominor			
2020/0180517	Al	0/2020	Moulin		- chea b	y examiner			

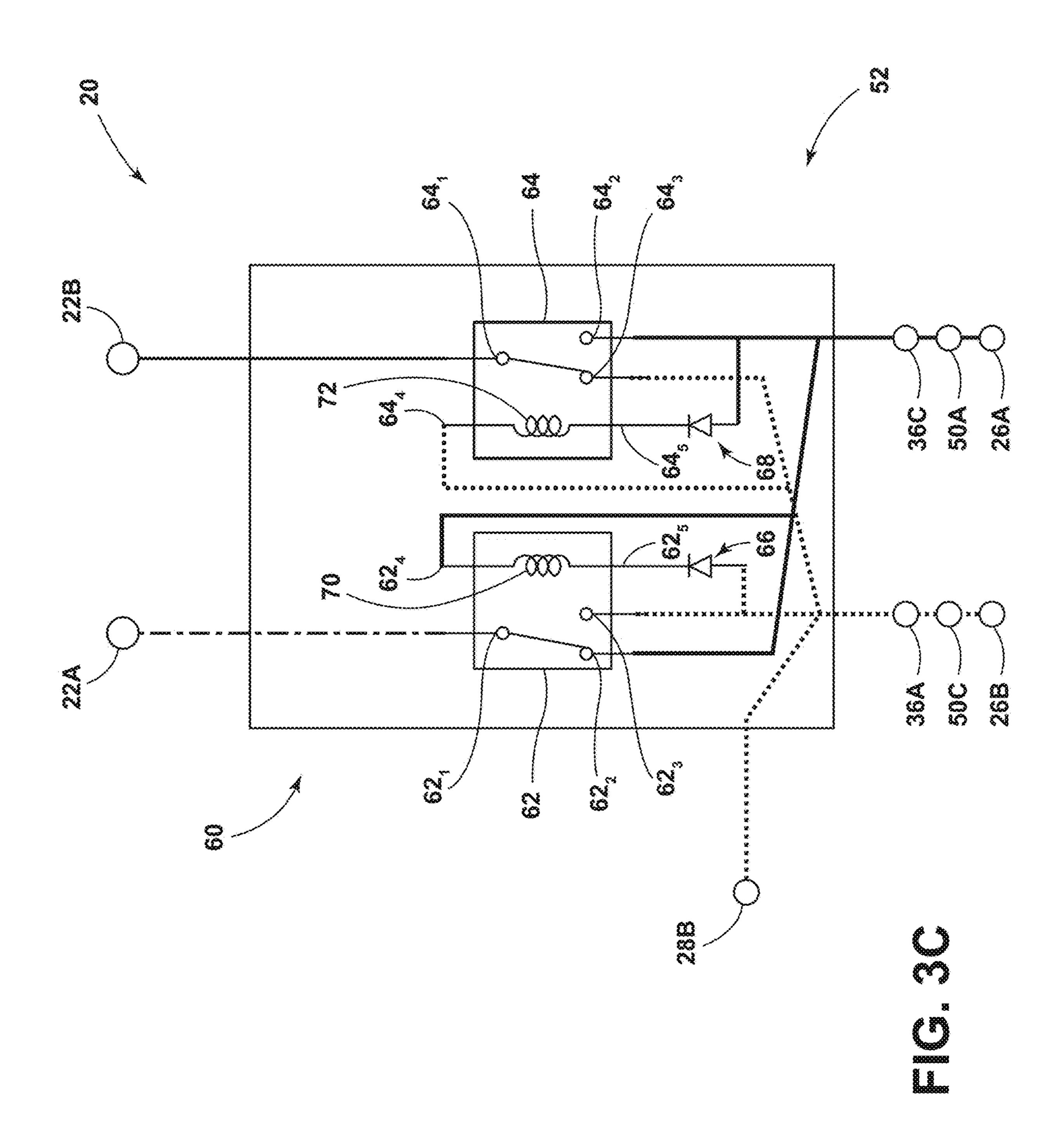


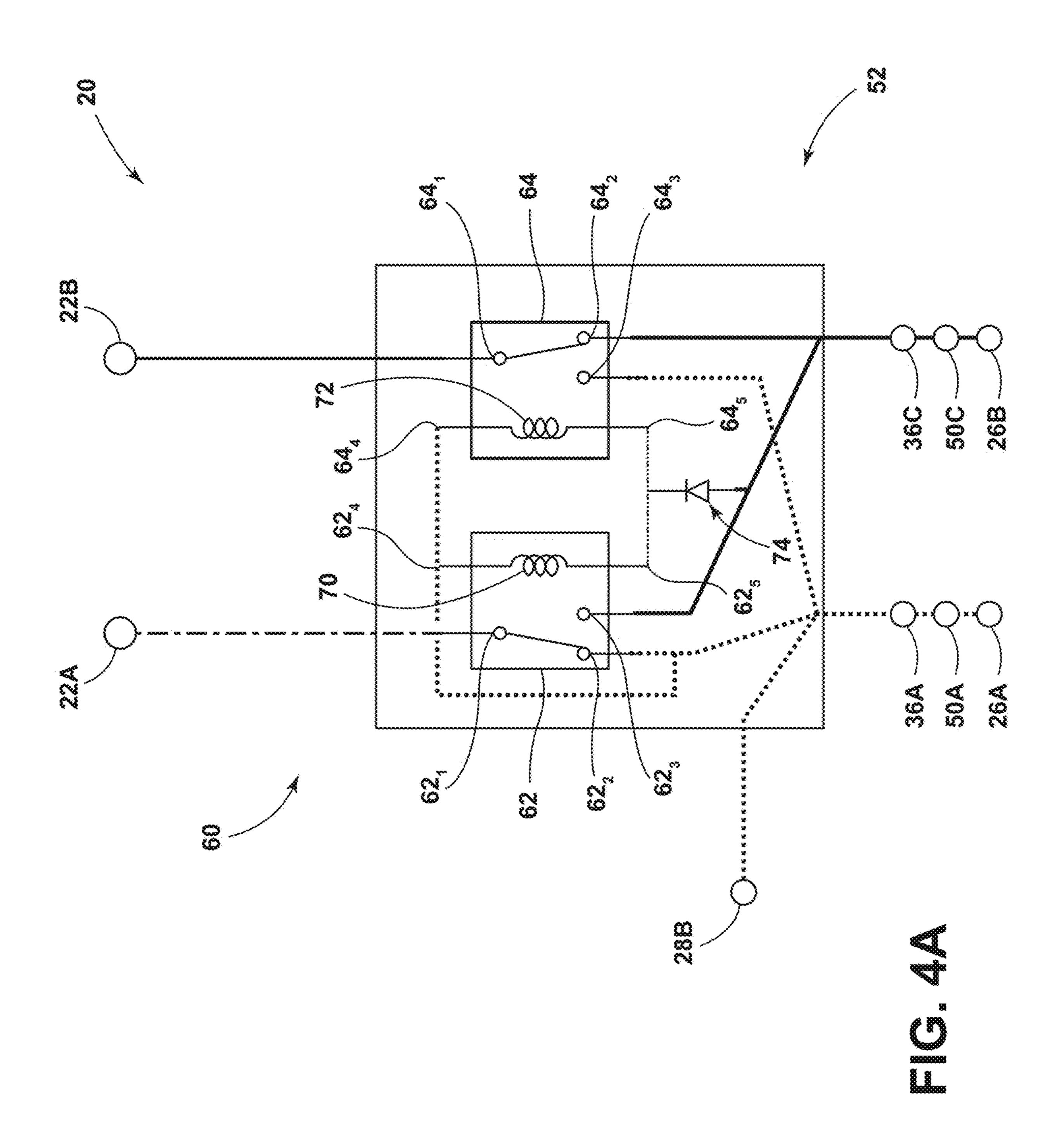


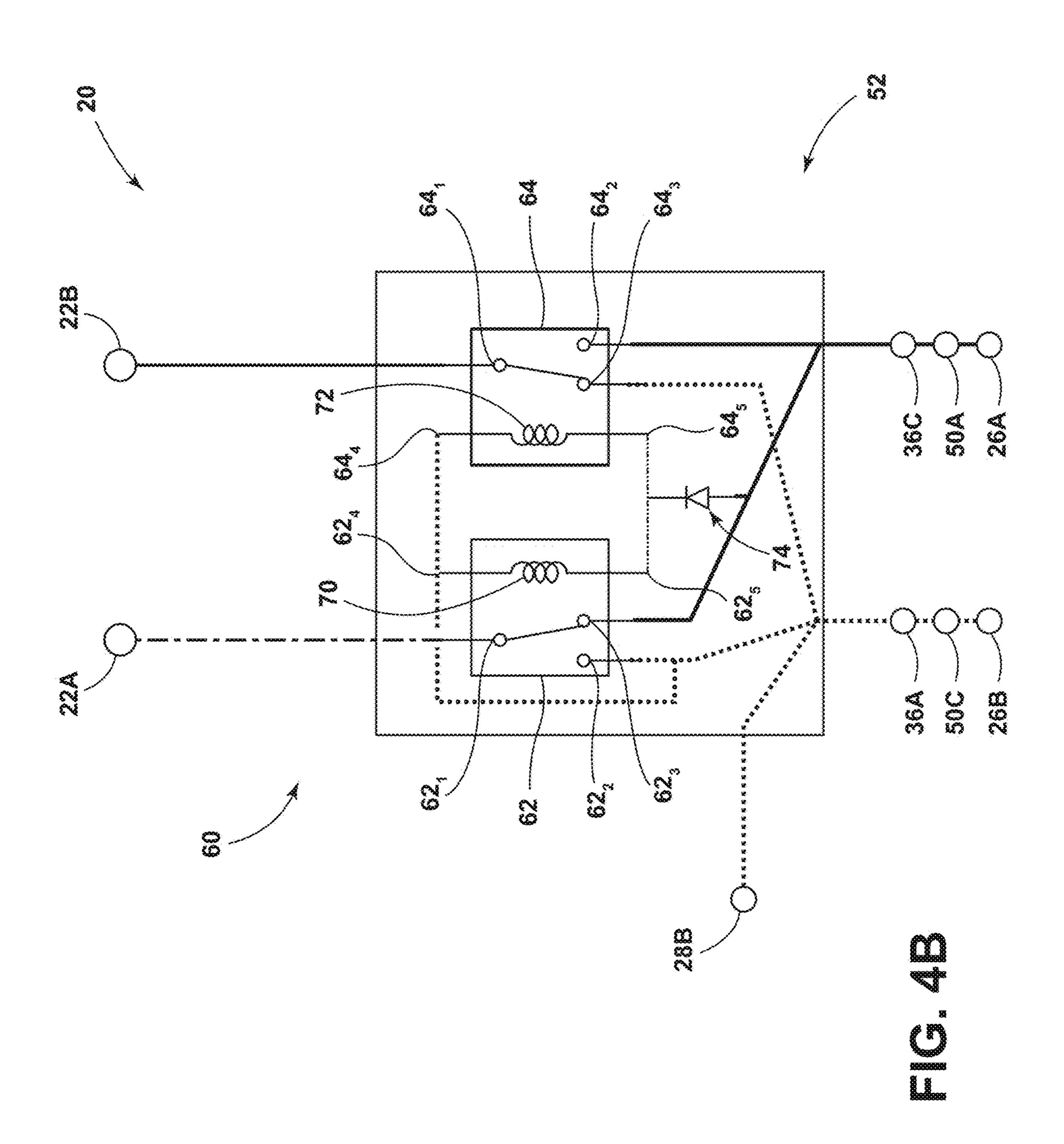


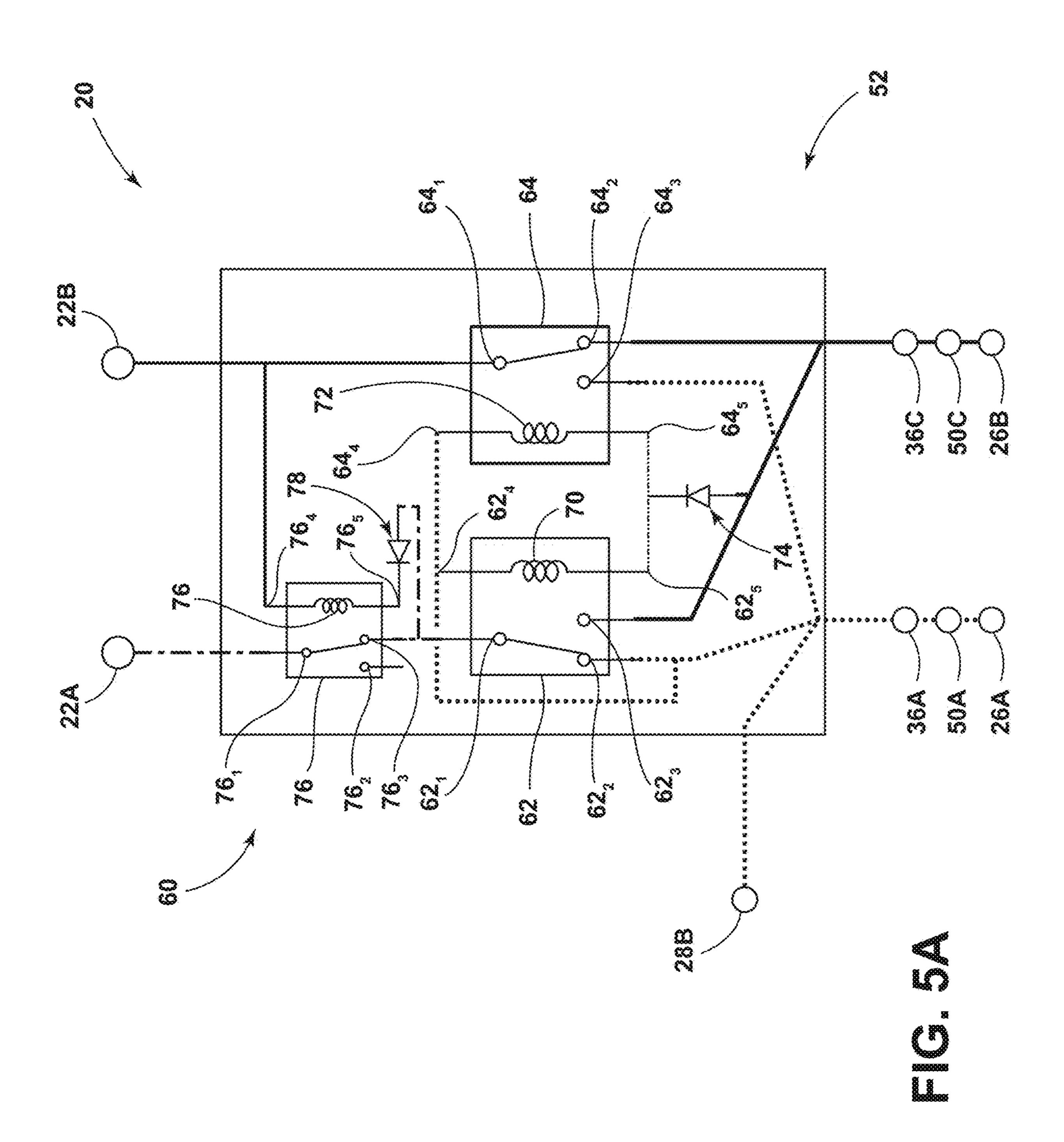


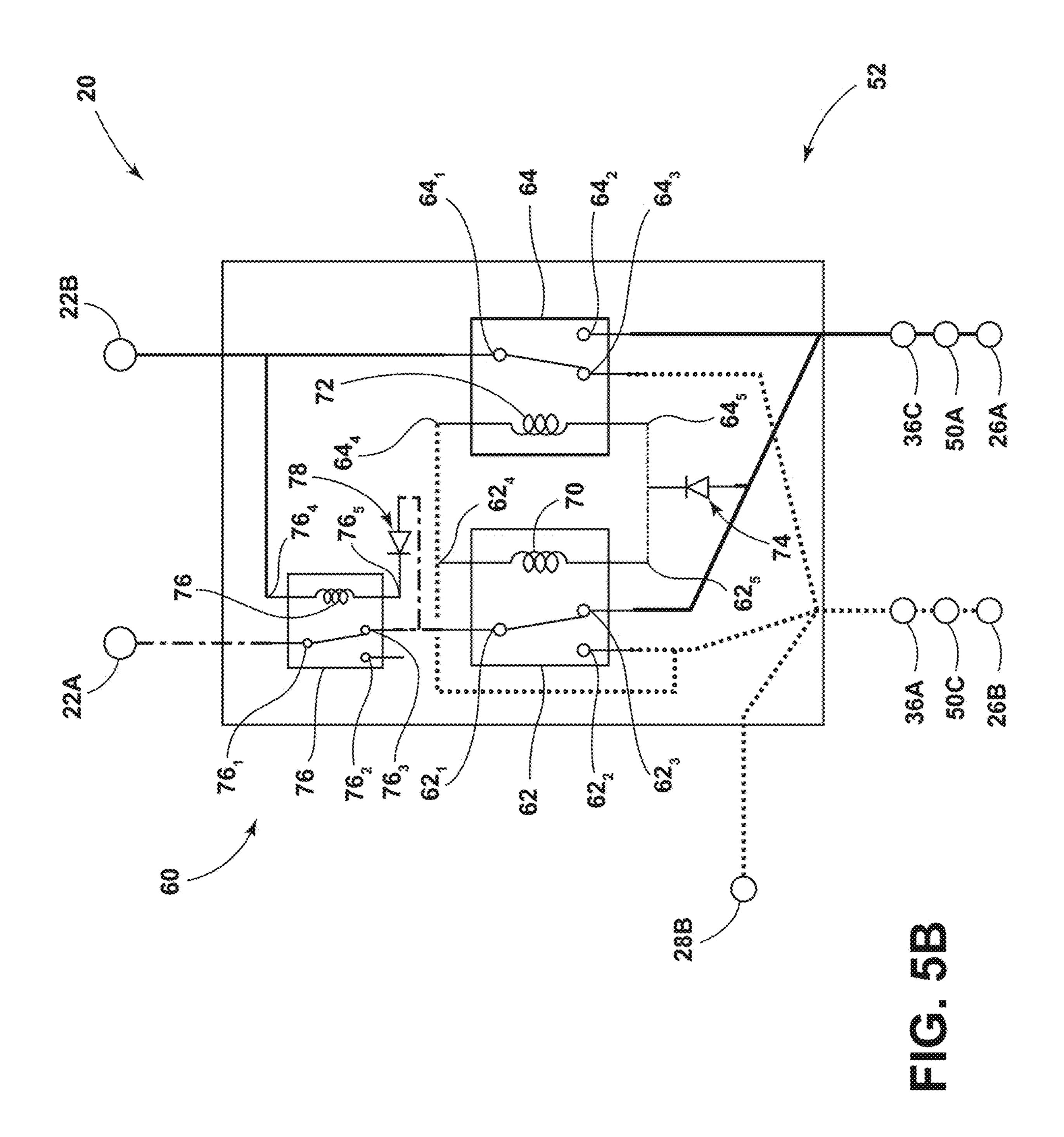


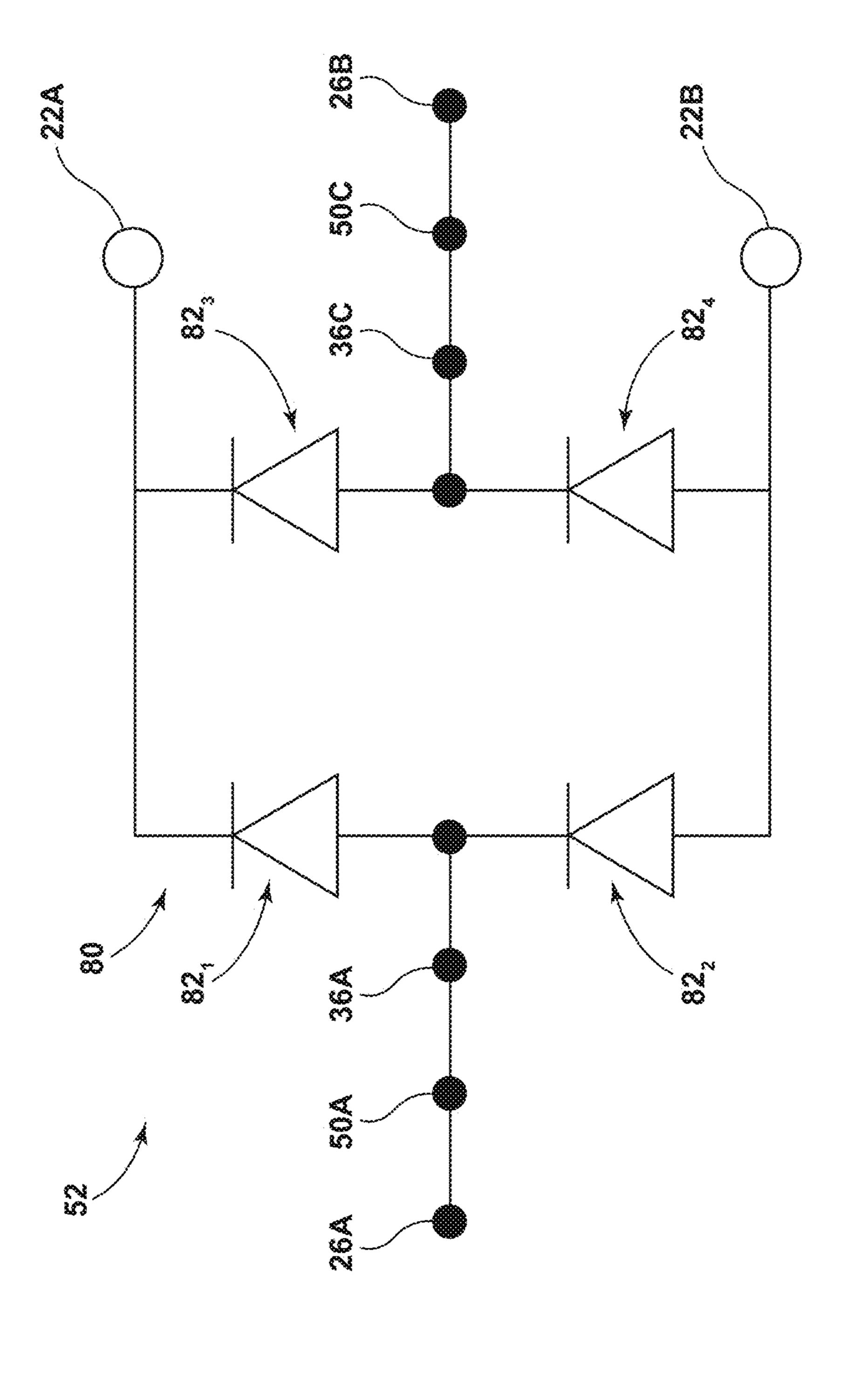


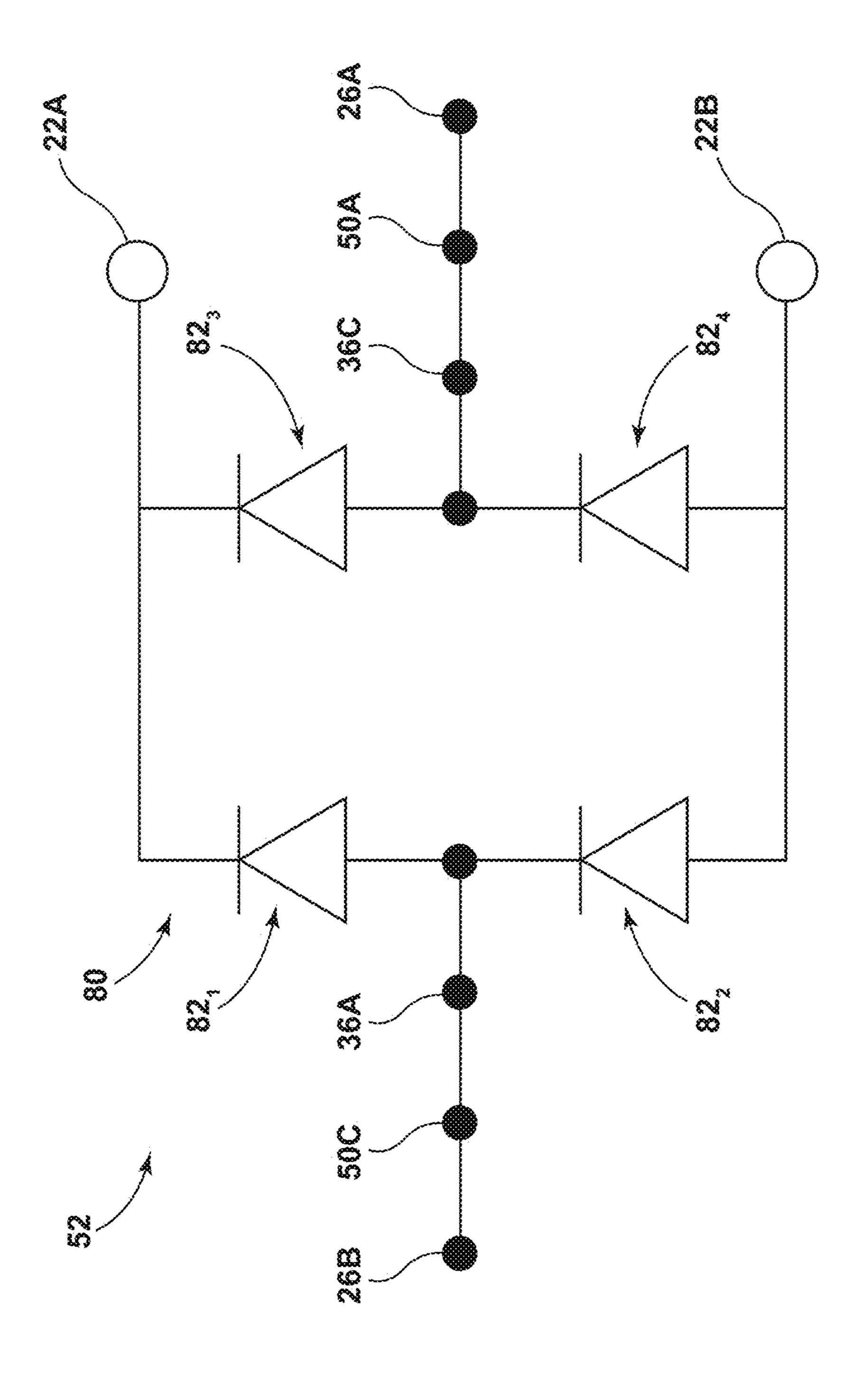




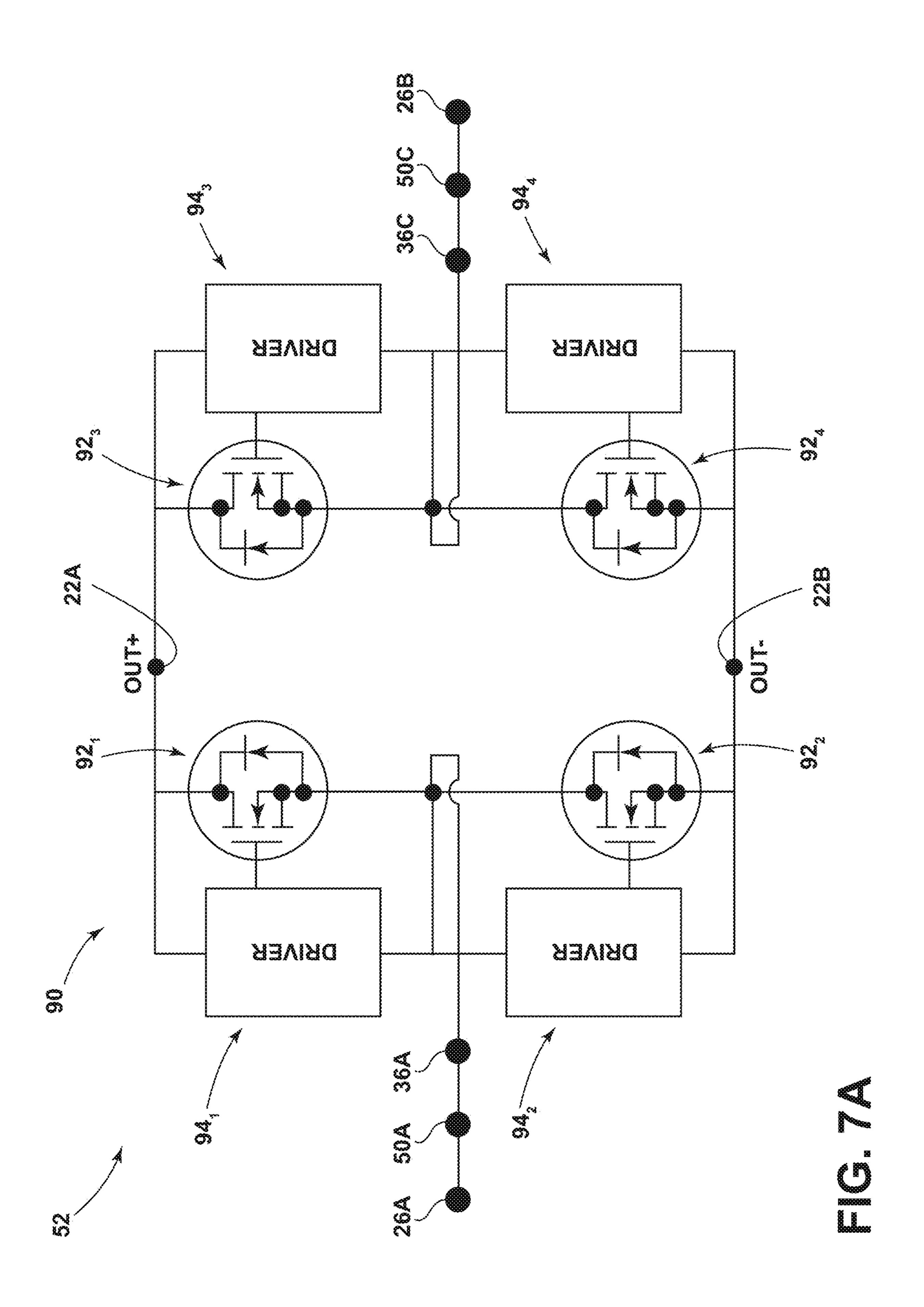




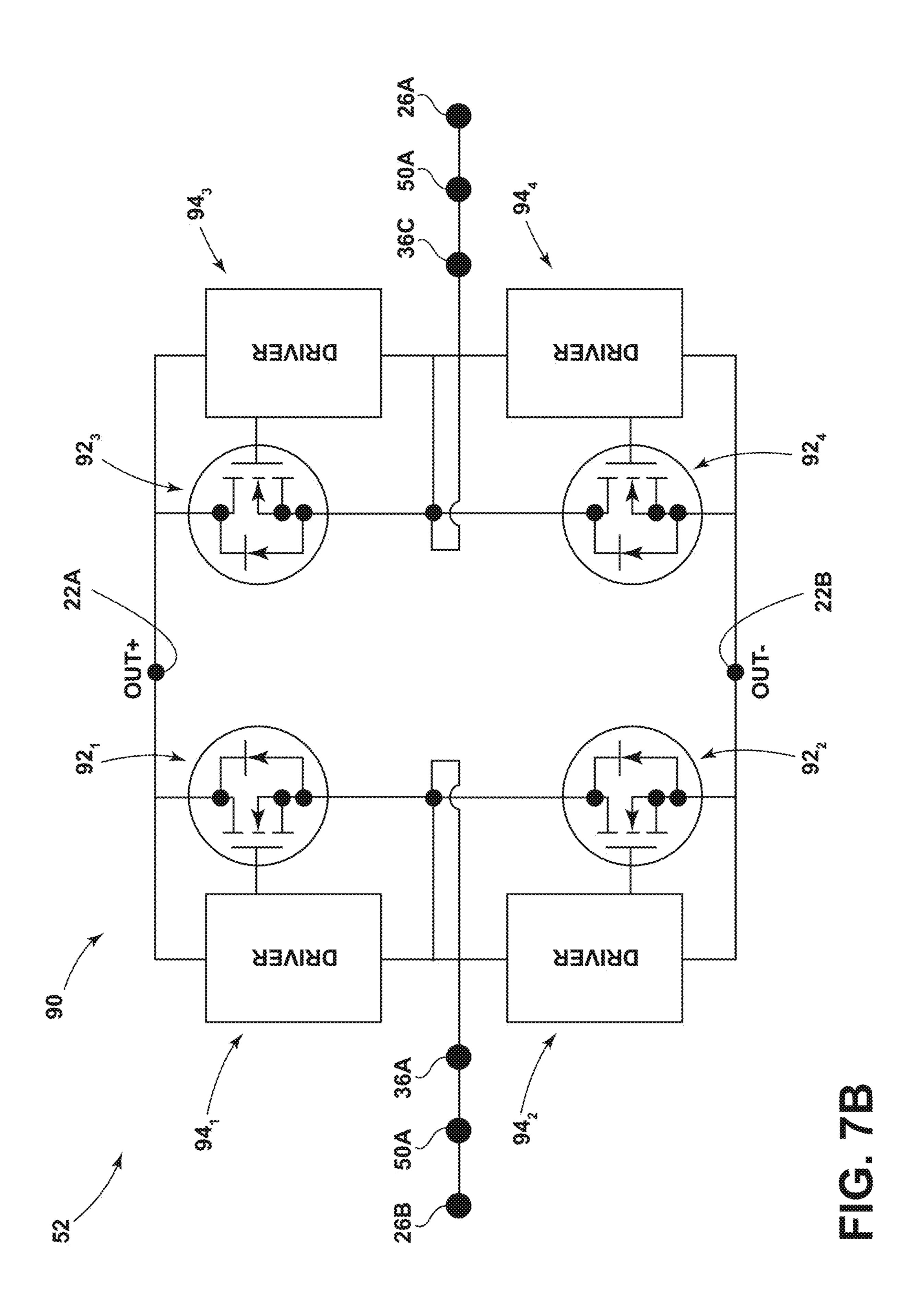


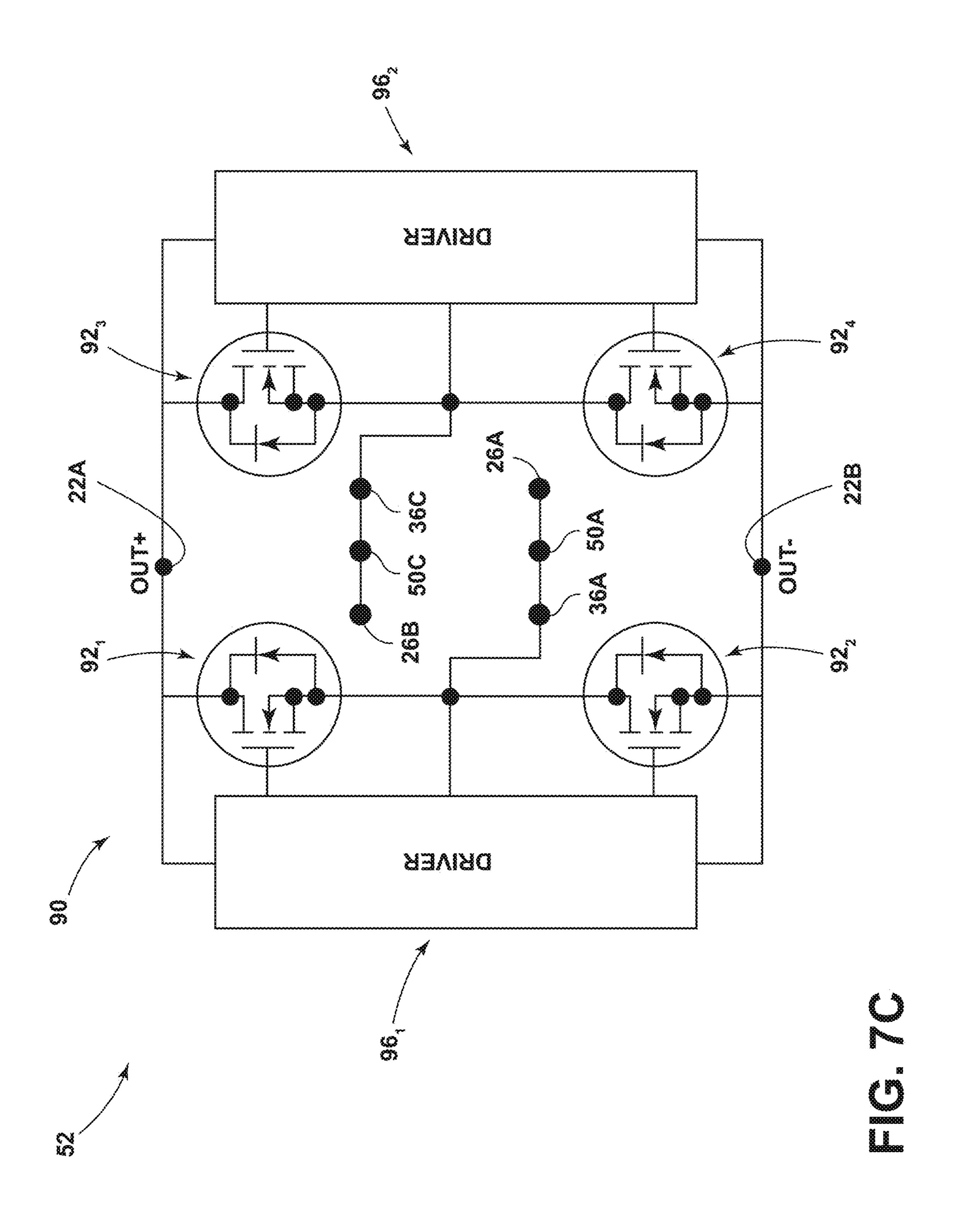


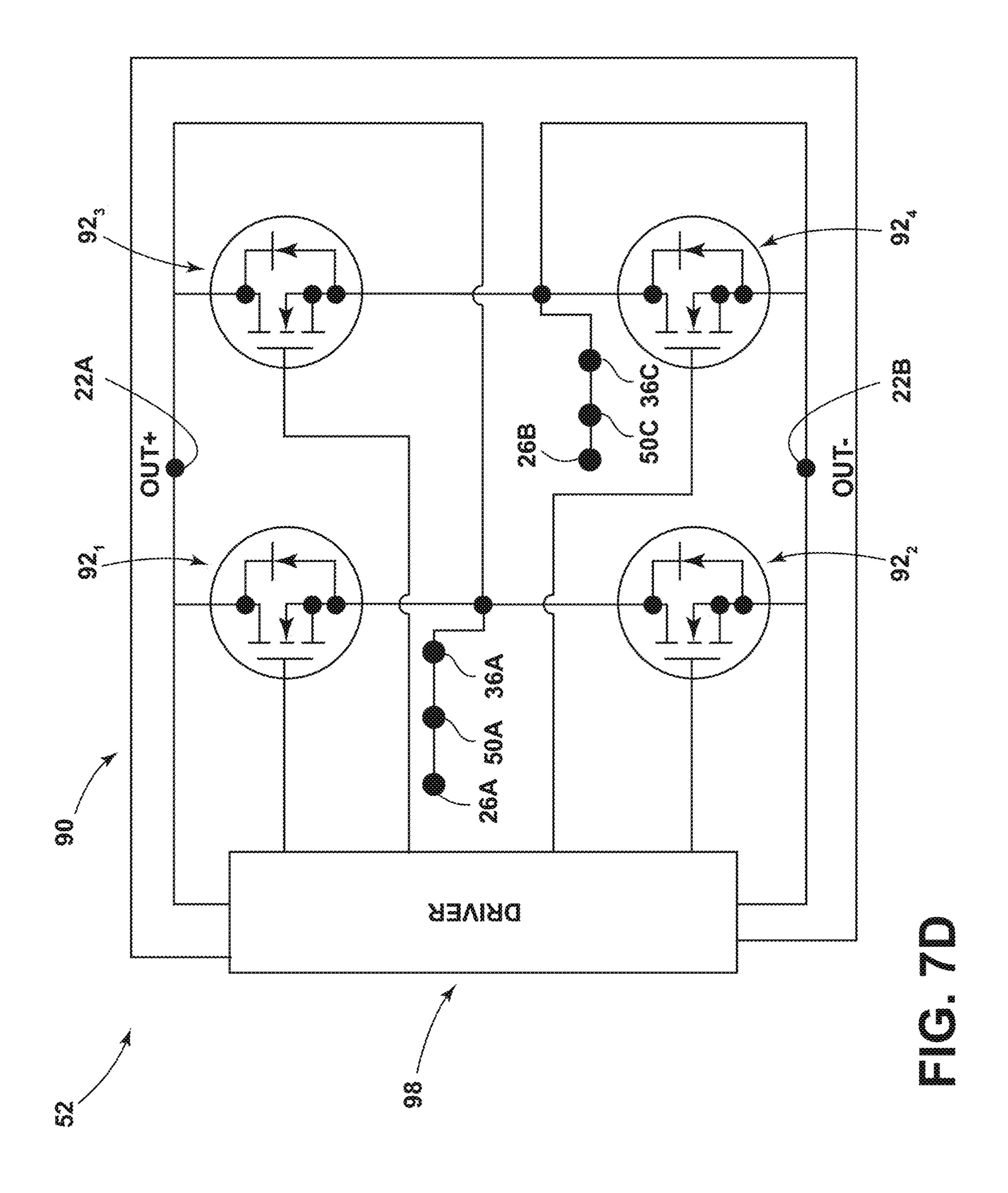
Apr. 12, 2022



Apr. 12, 2022







## ELECTRICAL ASSEMBLY

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure generally relates to electrical <sup>5</sup> assemblies, including electrical assemblies that may be used in connection with tracks, support members, and seats, including vehicle seats and tracks.

### **BACKGROUND**

This background description is set forth below for the purpose of providing context only. Therefore, any aspect of this background description, to the extent that it does not otherwise qualify as prior art, is neither expressly nor 15 impliedly admitted as prior art against the instant disclosure.

Some electrical assemblies may be relatively complex and/or may not provide sufficient functionality. Some electrical assemblies may not be configured for support members, which may be connected to electrical components, to 20 be selectively connected to track assemblies in multiple orientations.

There is a desire for solutions/options that minimize or eliminate one or more challenges or shortcomings of electrical assemblies. The foregoing discussion is intended only 25 to illustrate examples of the present field and should not be taken as a disavowal of scope.

## **SUMMARY**

In embodiments, an electrical assembly may include a track assembly, a control circuit, and/or a support assembly. The track assembly may include a first bus bar, and/or the first bus bar may be configured for connection with a first terminal of a power source. The track assembly may include 35 a second track that may have a second bus bar. The second bus bar may be configured for connection with a second terminal of said power source. The support assembly may be configured for connection with the track assembly in a first orientation and/or in a second orientation. The support 40 assembly may include a positive terminal and/or a negative terminal. The control circuit may be configured to automatically connect the first bus bar to the positive terminal of the support assembly and/or connect the second bus bar to the negative terminal of the support assembly regardless of 45 whether the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the first orientation or the second orientation. The control circuit may include a first relay, a second relay, a first diode, and/or a second diode. A first coil of the first relay and/or a second coil of the second relay may be 50 configured to be energized when electrically connected to the first bus bar.

With embodiments, if the support assembly is connected to the track in the first orientation, the first diode may be configured to permit current to flow to energize the first coil. 55 If the support assembly is connected to the track in the second orientation, the second diode may be configured to permit current to flow to energize the second coil. The control circuit may be configured such that only one of a first coil of a first relay or a second coil of a second relay may be energized at a time. The support assembly may include a support member. The support member may include a conductor and/or an additional conductor. If the support assembly is in the first orientation, the conductor may be configured to connect to the first bus bar, and/or if the support assembly is in the second orientation, the conductor may be configured to connect to the second bus bar. If the support

2

assembly is in the first orientation, the first bus bar may be connected to the conductor, and/or the control circuit may be configured to connect the first bus bar (and the conductor) to the positive terminal of the support assembly. If the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first bus bar may be connected to the additional conductor, and/or the control circuit may be configured to connect the first bus bar (and the additional conductor) to the positive terminal of the support assembly.

In embodiments, a control circuit may include a first relay, a second relay, and/or a diode. The first relay may include a first coil. The second relay may include a second coil. The diode may be configured to control current flow into the first coil and/or the second coil. If the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first coil and/or the second coil may not be energized, the first bus bar may be connected to the positive terminal of the support assembly, and/or the second bus bar may be connected to the negative terminal of the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first coil and/or the second coil may not be energized, the first bus bar may be connected to the positive terminal of the support assembly, and/or the second bus bar may be connected to the negative terminal of the support assembly.

With embodiments, the control circuit may include a first relay, a second relay, a third relay, a first diode, and/or a second diode. The first relay may include a first coil, and/or the second relay may include a second coil. The first diode may be connected to the first coil and/or the second coil. The third relay may include a third coil. The second diode may be connected to the third coil and/or the first relay. The third coil may be energized if the support assembly is in either of the first orientation and/or the second orientation. If the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first coil and/or the second coil may not be energized. If the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first coil and/or the second coil may be energized. The third relay may be configured to compensate for a reverse pulse from said power source. If the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first diode may be configured to permit current flow from the first relay to the third relay and/or to the positive terminal of the support assembly. If the support assembly is in the second orientation, the second diode may be configured to permit current flow from the first bus bar to the positive terminal of the support assembly.

The foregoing and other aspects, features, details, utilities, and/or advantages of embodiments of the present disclosure will be apparent from reading the following description, and from reviewing the accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side view generally illustrating an embodiment of an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2A is a cross-sectional view generally illustrating an embodiment of an electrical assembly with a support assembly connected in a first orientation according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2B is a cross-sectional view generally illustrating an embodiment of an electrical assembly with a support assembly connected in a second orientation according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 3C are schematic views generally illustrating portions of embodiments of an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic views generally illustrating portions of embodiments of an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIGS. **5**A and **5**B are schematic views generally illustrating portions of embodiments of an electrical assembly 5 according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 6A and 6B are schematic views generally illustrating portions of an embodiment of a control circuit an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 7A and 7B are schematic view generally illustrating portions of an embodiment of a control circuit of an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7C and 7D are schematic views generally illustrating 15 portions of embodiments of a control circuit of an electrical assembly according to teachings of the present disclosure.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the present disclosure, examples of which are described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the present disclosure will be described in conjunction with embodiments and/or examples, it will be understood that 25 they are not intended to limit the present disclosure to these embodiments and/or examples. On the contrary, the present disclosure is intended to cover alternatives, modifications, and equivalents.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 1, 30 2A, and 2B, an electrical assembly 20 may include a support assembly 22, a support member 30, a track assembly 38, and/or a control circuit **52**. The control circuit **52** may include at least one of a switch/relay assembly 60, a diode assembly 80, and/or a switch assembly 90. The support 35 member 30 may support and/or be connected to a seat 30A. The electrical assembly 20 may be configured to control, at least in part, movement of the support assembly 22. The support member 30 may be configured for selective connection (e.g., electrical and/or mechanical) with the track 40 assembly 38. For example and without limitation, the support member 30 may be configured to provide electrical connection between the track assembly 38 and a support assembly 22, which may include a vehicle seat 30A and/or other elements that may be connected to the support member 45 30. The track assembly 38 may be connected to a mounting surface 24, such as a vehicle floor.

With embodiments, a support member 30 may be connected to and/or be configured to engage a track assembly 38. The support member 30 and/or the track assembly 38 may extend substantially longitudinally (e.g., in an X-direction). For example and without limitation, the support member 30 may move (e.g., slide, roll, translate, etc.) in a longitudinal direction along the track assembly 38. The support member 30 may selectively engage and/or disengage from the track assembly 38. The support member 30 may be inserted into and/or be removed from the track assembly 38 in a Z-direction (e.g., a vertical direction). The support member 30 may, for example and without limitation, include a cassette configuration.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 2A, a track assembly 38 may include a first track 40 and/or a second track 40'. The first track 40 and/or the second track 40' may extend substantially in a longitudinal direction (e.g., the X-direction). The first track 40 and the second track 40' 65 may be substantially the same and/or may be disposed in a mirrored configuration. The first track 40 may be offset in

4

the Y-direction from the second track 40'. The first track 40 and/or the second track 40' may include substantially the same length. The support member 30 may include a first portion 32 and/or a second portion 34. The first portion 32 and/or the second portion 34 may selectively engage the first track 40 and/or the second track 40'. For example and without limitation, the first portion 32 of the support member 30 may engage the first track 40 and/or the second portion 34 of the support member 30 may engage the second track 40' (e.g., a forward facing support assembly 22), and/or the first portion 32 of the support member 30 may engage the second track 40' and/or the second portion 34 of the support member 30 may engage the first track 40 (e.g., a rearward facing support assembly 22).

With embodiments, the first track 40 and/or the second track 40' may include an outer track 42, 42' and/or an inner track 44, 44'. The outer tracks 42, 42' may include a first/bottom wall  $42_1$ ,  $42_1$ , a second wall  $42_2$ ,  $42_2$ , and/or a third wall  $42_3$ ,  $42_3$ '. The bottom wall  $42_1$ ,  $42_1$ ', the second 20 wall **42**<sub>2</sub>, **42**<sub>2</sub>', and/or the third wall **42**<sub>3</sub>, **42**<sub>3</sub>' may be connected to form a generally U-shaped configuration. The bottom wall  $42_1$ ,  $42_1$ ' may, for example, be substantially planar. The second wall 42<sub>2</sub>, 42<sub>2</sub>', and/or the third wall 42<sub>3</sub>, 42<sub>3</sub>' may extend perpendicularly (e.g., in the Z-direction) from opposite sides of the bottom wall 42<sub>1</sub>, 42<sub>1</sub>'. The second wall 42<sub>2</sub>, 42<sub>2</sub>' may include a first portion 42A, 42A' and/or the third wall  $42_3$ ,  $42_3$ ' may include a second portion 42B, 42B'. The first portion 42A, 42A' and/or the second portion 42B, 42B' may project laterally (e.g., in a Y-direction) toward a center of the track 40, 40'. The first portion 42A, 42A' and/or the second portion 42B, 42B' may be substantially planar. In embodiments, the first portion 42A, 42A' and/or the second portion 42B, 42B' may be disposed such that a gap 46, 46' may be provided between the first portion 42A, 42A' and the second portion 42B, 42B' (e.g., the first portion 42A, 42A' and the second portion 42B, 42B' may be offset in the Y-direction). The gap 46 may extend longitudinally along the track 40, and/or the gap 46 may be centered along the track 40.

In embodiments, the inner track 44, 44' may be disposed at least partially in the outer track 42, 42'. The inner track 44, 44' may, for example and without limitation, be substantially U-shaped. The inner track 44, 44' may include a first wall 44<sub>1</sub>, 44<sub>1</sub>', a second wall 44<sub>2</sub>, 44<sub>2</sub>', and/or a third wall 44<sub>3</sub>, 44<sub>3</sub>'. The second wall 44<sub>2</sub>, 44<sub>2</sub>', may be shorter than the third wall 44<sub>3</sub>, 44<sub>3</sub>'. The second wall 44<sub>2</sub>, 44<sub>2</sub>' and/or the third wall 44<sub>3</sub>, 44<sub>3</sub>' may be at least partially bent and/or curved. The second wall 44<sub>2</sub>, 44<sub>2</sub>' and the third wall 44<sub>3</sub>, 44<sub>3</sub>' may extend perpendicularly (e.g., vertically) from the bottom wall 44<sub>1</sub>. The bottom wall 44<sub>1</sub>, 44<sub>1</sub>' of the inner track 44, 44' may be generally aligned with and/or adjacent to the bottom wall  $42_1$ ,  $42_1$ ' of the outer track 42, 42'. The second wall  $44_2$ , 44<sub>2</sub>' of the inner track 44, 44' may be generally aligned with and/or adjacent to the second wall 42<sub>2</sub>, 42<sub>2</sub>' of the outer track **42**, **42**'. The third wall **44**<sub>3</sub>, **44**<sub>3</sub>' of the inner track **44**, **44**' may be generally aligned with and/or adjacent to the third wall **42**<sub>3</sub>, **42**<sub>3</sub>' of the outer track **42**, **42**'.

With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 2A and 2B, the outer track 42 of the first track 40 may include a first recess 48A and a third recess 48C. The outer track 42' of the second track 40' may include a second recess 48B and a fourth recess 48D. The recesses 48A, 48B, 48C, 48D may be disposed between a top of the second wall 42<sub>2</sub>, 42<sub>2</sub>' of the outer track 42, 42' and a top of the second wall 44<sub>2</sub>, 44<sub>2</sub>' of the inner track 44, 44'. The recesses 48A, 48B, 48C, 48D may extend partially into the second walls 42<sub>2</sub>, 42<sub>2</sub>' (e.g., in the Y-direction). The recesses 48A, 48B, 48C,

**48**D may include one or more of a variety of shapes, sizes, and/or configurations. For example and without limitation, the recesses **48**A, **48**B, **48**C, **48**D may be substantially rectangular, circular, and/or curved.

In embodiments, the first track 40 and/or the second track 5 40' may include one or more bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D (e.g., electrical conductors). The first track 40 may include a first bus bar 50A and/or a third bus bar 50C. The second track 40' may include a second bus bar 50B and/or a fourth bus bar 50D. The bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D may include 10 one or more of a variety of shapes, sizes, and/or configurations. For example and without limitation, the bus bars 50A, **50**B, **50**C, **50**D may be substantially U-shaped. The bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D may extend substantially longitudinally (e.g., in the X-direction). The bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D 15 may be electrically conductive and/or include an electrically conductive material. The first bus bar **50**A may be disposed at least partially in the first recess 48A of the first track 40, the second bus bar 50B may be disposed at least partially in the second recess 48B of the second track 40', the third bus 20 bar **50**C may be disposed at least partially in the third recess **48**C of the first track **40**, and/or the fourth bus bar **50**D may be disposed at least partially in the fourth recess 48D of the second track 40'. The bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D may be disposed at least partially between the outer tracks 42, 42' 25 and the inner tracks 44, 44' (e.g., in the Z-direction). The bus bars 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D may extend along part of or along the entire length of the first track 40 and/or second track 40'. The bus bars 50A, 50B may be electrically connected to a power source 26 (e.g., a vehicle battery) and may be 30 configured to provide power from the power source 26 to the support member 30 at some or all points along the track 40.

With embodiments, the bus bars 50A, 50B may be configured for connection with a power source 26 and/or the first ECU **28**A. For example and without limitation, the first 35 bus bar 50A and/or the second bus bar 50B may be configured for connection to the power source 26. The first bus bar **50**A and/or the second bus bar **50**B may be configured to provide power to a support assembly 22 via the support member 30. The first bus bar 50A may connect to a first/ 40 positive terminal 26A of the power source 26, and/or the second bus bar 50B may connect to a second/negative terminal 26B, which may be connected to ground, of the power source 26. The first bus bar 50A and/or the second bus bar **50**B may supply power to the second ECU **28**B and/or 45 to one or more electrical components 22C, 22C<sub>1</sub>, 22C<sub>2</sub> (e.g., motors, heaters, fans, haptic devices, etc. as generally illustrated in FIGS. 1-2B) of support assembly 22 that may provide one or more functions (e.g., support assembly movement, heating, cooling, massage, etc.).

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 2A and 2B, the support member 30 may include one or more conductors (e.g., conductors 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D). A first portion 32 of the support member 30 may include a first conductor 36A and/or a third conductor 36C. The second 55 portion 34 of the support member 30 may include a second conductor 36B and/or a fourth conductor 36D. In a first orientation of the support assembly 22, the first conductor 36A may be configured for connection with the first bus bar 50A and/or the second conductor 36B may be configured for 60 connection with the second bus bar 50B (see, e.g., FIG. 2A).

With embodiments, in a second orientation of the support assembly 22, the first conductor 36A may be configured for connection with the second bus bar 50B and/or the second conductor 36B may be configured for connection with the 65 first bus bar 50A (see, e.g., FIG. 2B). In embodiments, the conductors 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D may include one or more of

6

a variety of shapes, sizes, and/or configurations. For example and without limitation, the conductors 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D may be oval-shaped, rectangular, curved, rounded, and/or oblong. The conductors 36A, 36B, 36C, 36D may be substantially planar.

With embodiments, an electrical assembly 20 may include a first ECU **28**A and/or a second ECU **28**B. The first ECU **28**A and/or the second ECU **28**B may be configured to communicate with (e.g., receive information from, send information to, digitally communicate with, and/or sense a status/voltage of, etc.) the control circuit 52, such as with the switch/relay assembly 60, the diode assembly 80, and the switch assembly 90. The first ECU 28A and/or the second ECU 28B may be configured to sense the status of the control circuit **52** (e.g., such as voltage). The first ECU **28**A may be connected to the track assembly 38. The second ECU 28B may be connected to the support member 30. The second ECU 28B may, for example and without limitation, be configured to control one or more functions/electrical components 22C of the support assembly 22. The control circuit **52** may be connected between (e.g., electrically) the bus bars 50A, 50B and the second ECU 28B. The first ECU **28**A may be configured to receive information about the orientation of the support member 30 (and a seat 30A that may be connected thereto), such as via the second ECU **28**B and/or the control circuit **52**. For example and without limitation, the first ECU **28**A may be configured to receive information from the second ECU 28B and/or the control circuit 52 indicating whether the support assembly 22 is forward facing or rearward facing.

In embodiments, the control circuit 52 may include a switch/relay assembly 60. The relay assembly 60 may be configured to connect the appropriate support assembly terminals 22A, 22B to the power source 26. For example and without limitation, the relay assembly 60 may be configured to connect the correct terminals 26A, 26B of the power source 26 to the appropriate support assembly terminals 22A, 22B (e.g., such that the first terminal 22A of the support assembly 22 is connected to the first terminal 26A of the power source 26 and the second terminal 22B is connected to the second terminal 26B of the power source 26, regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22). The relay assembly 60 may include one or more relays (e.g., relays 62, 64) and/or one or more diodes (e.g., diode 74). The one or more relays may, for example and without limitation, include one or more electromechanical relays and/or one or more solid state relays. Upon connecting the support member 30 to the track 40, the relay assembly 60 may automatically connect the positive terminal 26A of the 50 power source **26** to a positive terminal **22**A of the support assembly 22. Additionally or alternatively, the relay assembly **60** may automatically connect the negative (e.g., ground) terminal 26B of the power source 26 to the negative terminal 22B of the support assembly 22. The relay assembly 60 may be disposed at least partially in the support member 30 and/or in the seat 30A.

With embodiments, such as generally shown in FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 3C, the control circuit 52 (e.g., the relay assembly 60) may be configured to automatically connect the power source 26 to the correct terminals 22A, 22B of the support assembly 22 regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22. The relay assembly 60 may include a first relay 62, a second relay 64, a first diode 66, and/or a second diode 68. The first relay 62 and/or the second relay 64 may include a first contact 62<sub>1</sub>, 64<sub>1</sub>, a second contact 62<sub>2</sub>, 64<sub>2</sub>, a third contact 62<sub>3</sub>, 64<sub>3</sub>, a fourth contact 62<sub>4</sub>, 64<sub>4</sub>, and/or a fifth contact 62<sub>5</sub>, 64<sub>5</sub>. The relays 62, 64 may be configured to

selectively electrically connect the first contacts  $62_1$ ,  $64_1$  with the second contacts  $62_2$ ,  $64_2$  or the third contacts  $62_3$ ,  $64_3$ .

In embodiments, the first relay 62 may be connected to the first diode 66 and/or the second relay 64 may be connected 5 to the second diode 68. The first relay 62 (e.g., the first contact 62<sub>1</sub>) may be connected to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22, and/or the second relay 64 (e.g., the first contact  $64_1$ ) may be connected to the negative terminal 22B (e.g., ground) of the support assembly 22. The 10 first relay 62 and/or the second relay 64 may include a first coil 70 and/or a second coil 72, respectively. The coils 70, 72 may be connected between the fourth contacts  $62_4$ ,  $64_4$ and the fifth contacts  $62_5$ ,  $64_5$  of the first relay 62 and the second relay 64, respectively. The first diode 66 may be 15 connected to the fifth contact  $62_5$  of the first relay 62. The first diode 66 may permit current flow into the fifth contact 62<sub>5</sub> and/or may restrict current flow out of the fifth contact 62<sub>5</sub>. The second diode 68 may be connected to the fifth contact 64<sub>5</sub> of the second relay 64. The second diode 68 may 20 permit current flow into the fifth contact 64, and/or may restrict current flow out of the fifth contact  $64_5$ . The second contact 62<sub>2</sub> of the first relay 62 may be connected to the fourth contact  $62_4$  of the first relay 62, the second contact  $64_2$ of the second relay 64, the second diode 68, and/or the 25 second conductor 36B. The third contact 62<sub>3</sub> of the first relay 62 may be connected to the first diode 66, the fourth contact  $64_{4}$  of the second relay 64, the third contact  $64_{3}$  of the second relay 64, the first conductor 36A, and/or the second ECU **28**B (e.g., to output support assembly position information). 30

With embodiments, such as generally shown in FIG. 3A, the relay assembly 60 may include a first state (e.g., an initial state). When the relay assembly 60 is in the first state, the support assembly 22 may not be connected to the track assembly 38, and/or the support assembly 22 may not be 35 connected to the power source 26. In the first state of the relay assembly 60, the first contact 62<sub>1</sub> of the first relay 62 may be connected to the second contact 62<sub>2</sub>, and/or the first contact 64<sub>1</sub> of the second relay 64 may be connected to the second contact 64<sub>2</sub>. Additionally or alternatively, in the first state of the relay assembly 60, the first conductor 36A and/or the second conductor 36B may not be connected to the first bus bar 50A and/or the second bus bar 50B.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 3B, the relay assembly 60 may include a second state which may 45 correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a first/forward-facing orientation and connected to the track assembly 38. When the relay assembly 60 is in the second state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track 40 and/or the support assembly 22 may be connected to the 50 power source 26, such as via the first conductor 36A that may be connected to the first bus bar 50A (which may be connected to the positive terminal 26A) and/or via the second conductor 36B that may be connected to the second bus bar 50B (which may be connected to the negative 55 terminal 26B).

With embodiments, connecting the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the first conductor 36A may cause the first coil 70 to trigger (e.g., energize), which may connect the first contact 62<sub>1</sub> of the first relay 62 to the third contact 60 62<sub>3</sub> instead of the second contact 62<sub>2</sub>. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the first conductor 36A, through the first relay 62, and/or to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. The second coil 72 may not be energized, and/or the second 65 diode 68 may prevent the second coil 72 from energizing when the first coil 70 is energized. In the second state, the

8

first contact  $64_1$  and second contact  $64_2$  of the second relay 64 may remain connected. For example and without limitation, current may flow from the negative terminal 22B to the first contact  $64_1$ , to the second contact  $64_2$ , to the second conductor 36B, to the second bus bar 50B, and/or to the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 3C, the relay assembly 60 may include a third state that may correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a rearward-facing orientation. When the relay assembly 60 is in the third state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track 40 and/or the support assembly 22 may be connected to the power source 26. When the relay assembly 60 is in the third state, the first bus bar 50A may be connected to the second conductor 36B, which may connect the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the second conductor 36B. Additionally or alternatively, in the third state of the relay assembly 60, the second bus bar 50B may be connected to the first conductor 36A, which may connect the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26 to the first conductor 36A.

With embodiments, connecting the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the second conductor 36B may cause the second coil 72 to trigger (e.g., energize), which may connect the first contact  $64_1$  of the second relay 64 to the third contact  $64_3$  instead of the second contact  $64_2$ . Current may flow from positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the second conductor 36B, through the first relay 62, and/or to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. The first coil 70 may not be energized, and/or the first diode 66 may prevent the first coil 70 from energizing when the second coil 72 is energized. The second bus bar 50B may be connected to the third contact  $64_3$  of the second relay 64 and/or may be connected to the first contact  $64_1$  of the second relay 64 such as to connect to the negative terminal 22B of the support assembly 22.

In embodiments, such as generally shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, a control circuit 52 (e.g., relay assembly 60) may be configured to automatically connect the power source 26 to the correct terminals 22A, 22B of the support assembly 22 regardless of orientation. The relay assembly 60 may include a first relay **62**, a second relay **64**, and/or a diode **74**. The first relay 62 and/or the second relay 64 may be connected to the diode 74. The first relay 62 (e.g., the first contact  $62_1$ ) may be connected to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22, and/or the second contact 64<sub>2</sub> of the second relay 64 may be connected to the negative terminal 22B of the support assembly 22. The diode 74 may be connected to the fifth contact  $62_5$  of the first relay 62 and the fifth contact 64<sub>5</sub> of the second relay 64. The diode 74 may permit current flow from the second conductor 36B to the fifth contacts  $62_5$ ,  $64_5$  of the relays 62, 64 (and from the fifth contacts  $62_5$ ,  $64_5$ ) to the fourth contacts  $62_4$ ,  $64_4$ ), and/or may restrict current flow from the fifth contacts  $62_5$ ,  $64_5$  to the second conductor 36B (e.g., to prevent energizing the coils 70, 72 in the first orientation). The second contact 62<sub>2</sub> of the first relay 62 may be connected to the first conductor 36A, the fourth contact  $62_4$  of the first relay 62, the fourth contact  $64_4$  of the second relay 64, the third contact 64<sub>3</sub> of the second relay 64, and/or the second ECU 28B (e.g., to output seat position or other information). The third contact 62<sub>3</sub> of the first relay 62 may be connected to the second conductor 36B, the diode 74, and/or the second contact  $64_2$  of the second relay 64.

With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 4A, the relay assembly 60 may include a first state that may correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a first/forward-facing orientation. When the relay assembly 60

is in the first state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track 40 and/or support assembly 22 may be connected to the power source 26. When the relay assembly 60 is in the first state, the first bus bar 50A may be connected to the first conductor 36A, which may connect the first 5 conductor 36A with the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Additionally or alternatively, in the first state of the relay assembly 60, the second bus bar 50B may be connected to the second conductor 36B, which may connect the second conductor 36B with the negative terminal 26B of 10 the power source 26.

In embodiments, connecting the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the first conductor 36A may not cause the first coil 70 and/or the second coil 72 to trigger (e.g., energize). The first contacts  $62_1$ ,  $64_1$  of the relays 62, 64 may 15 remain connected to the second contacts 62, 64. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the first bus bar 50A, to the first conductor 36A, through the first relay 62, and/or to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. The first coil 70 and/or the 20 second coil 72 may not be energized, and/or the diode 74 may prevent the first coil 70 and/or the second coil 72 form energizing when the support assembly 22 is in the forwardfacing orientation. The second bus bar **50**B may be connected via the second conductor 36B to the second contact 25 **64**<sub>2</sub> of the second relay **64** and/or may be connected to the first contact **64**<sub>1</sub> of the second relay **64**, such as to connect the negative terminal **26**B of the power source **26** to the negative terminal 22B of the support assembly 22.

With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 30 4B, the relay assembly 60 may include a second state that may correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a second/rearward facing orientation. When the relay assembly 60 is in the second state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track 40 and/or the support assembly 22 may be connected to the power source 26. When the relay assembly 60 is in the second state, the first bus bar 50A may be connected to the second conductor 36B, which may connect the second conductor 36B with the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Additionally or alternatively, in 40 the second state of the relay assembly 60, the second bus bar 50B may be connected to the first conductor 36A, which may connected the first conductor 36A with the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

In embodiments, connecting the positive terminal **26**A of 45 the power source 26 to the first conductor 36A may cause the first coil 70 and/or the second coil 72 to trigger (e.g., trip/energize) which may connect the first contacts 62<sub>1</sub>, 64<sub>1</sub> of the relays 62, 64 to the third contacts 62<sub>3</sub>, 64<sub>3</sub> instead of the second contacts  $62_2$ ,  $64_2$ . Current may flow from the 50 positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the second conductor 36B, through the first relay 62, and/or to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. The diode 74 may prevent current from flowing through the second relay 64 to the negative terminal 22B of the support assem- 55 bly 22. The second bus bar 50B (e.g., ground) may be connected to the third contact 64<sub>3</sub> of the second relay 64, which may be connected to the first contact **64**<sub>1</sub> of the second relay 64 (which may be connected to the negative terminal 22B of the support assembly 22).

With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 5A and 5B, a control circuit 52 (e.g., the relay assembly 60) may include a first relay 62, a second relay 64, a third relay 76, a first diode 74, and/or a second diode 78 (e.g., a pulse diode). The third relay 76 may include a first contact  $76_1$ , a 65 second contact  $76_2$ , a third contact  $76_3$ , a fourth contact  $76_4$ , and/or a fifth contact  $76_5$ . The third relay 76 may include a

10

third coil 76A that may be connected between the fourth contact  $76_4$  and the fifth contact  $76_5$ . The first contact  $76_1$ may be connected to the second contact  $76_2$ , which may be configured as an open contact, when the third coil 76A is not energized, and/or the first contact 76<sub>1</sub> may be connected to the third contact  $76_3$  when the third coil 76A is energized. The first contact **76**<sub>1</sub> of the third relay **76** may be connected to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. The fourth contact  $76_4$  of the third relay 76 may be connected to the first contact  $64_1$  of the second relay 64 and/or the negative terminal 22B (e.g., ground) of the support assembly 22. The pulse diode 78 may be connected to the third contact  $76_3$  of the third relay 76, the fifth contact  $76_5$  of the third relay 76, and/or the first contact 62<sub>1</sub> of the first relay 62. The pulse diode 78 may be configured to permit current flow into the fifth contact  $76_5$  of the third relay 76 and/or may restrict or prevent current flow out from the fifth contact  $76_5$  (e.g., to prevent energizing the coils 70, 72 in the first orientation). The first contact  $62_1$  of the first relay 62 may be connected to the third contact  $76_3$  of the third relay 76.

In embodiments, the third relay 76 and/or the pulse diode 78 of the relay assembly 60 may isolate the first relay 62 and/or the second relay 64 during switching (e.g., coil energizing). Switching the polarity of the contacts at the first conductor 36A and/or second conductor 36B may result in a reverse battery pulse. The pulse diode 78 and/or third relay 76 switching delay may limit the reverse battery pulse from affecting the support assembly 22 (e.g., internal circuity of the support assembly 22, the second ECU 28B, and/or electrical components 22C that may be connected to the support assembly 22).

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 5A, the relay assembly 60 may include a first state that may correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a first/forward-facing orientation. When the relay assembly 60 is in the first state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track 40 and/or the support assembly 22 may be connected to the power source 26. When the relay assembly 60 is in the first state, the first bus bar 50A may be connected to the first conductor 36A, which may connect the first conductor 36A with the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Additionally or alternatively, in the first state of the relay assembly 60, the second bus bar 50B may be connected to the second conductor 36B, which may connect the second conductor 36B with the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

With embodiments, connecting the positive terminal **26**A of the power source 26 to the first conductor 36A may not cause the first coil 70 and/or the second coil 72 to trigger (e.g., energize). The first contacts  $62_1$ ,  $64_1$  of the relays 62, 64 may remain connected to the second contacts  $62_2$ ,  $64_2$ . Connecting the positive terminal **22**A to the first conductor **36A** may cause the third coil **76A** to energize. For example and without limitation, current may flow from the positive terminal 26A, to the first bus bar 50A, to the first conductor 36A, to the first contact  $62_1$  of the first relay 62, to the pulse diode 78, to the fifth contact  $76_5$  of the third relay 76, and to the third coil 76A, which may energize the third coil 76A. Energizing the third coil 76A may cause the first contact 76<sub>1</sub> of the third relay **76** to disconnect from the second contact  $76_2$  and connect to the third contact  $76_3$ , which may connect the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 5B, the relay assembly 60 may include a second state that may correspond to the support assembly 22 being disposed in a second/rearward-facing orientation. When the relay assem-

bly 60 is in the second state, the support assembly 22 may be connected to the track assembly 38 and/or support assembly 22 may be connected to the power source 26. When the relay assembly 60 is in the second state, the first bus bar 50A may be connected to the second conductor 36B, which may connect the second conductor 36B with the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Additionally or alternatively, in the second state of the relay assembly 60, the second bus bar 50B may be connected to the first conductor 36A, which may connected the first conductor **36**A with the negative terminal **26**B of the power source **26**.

With embodiments, connecting the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the second conductor 36B may cause the first coil 70 and/or the second coil 72 to trigger (e.g., energize). The first contacts  $62_1$ ,  $64_1$  of the first relay 62 and the second relay 64 may disconnect from the second contacts  $62_2$ ,  $64_2$  and/or may connect to the third contacts 62<sub>3</sub>, 64<sub>3</sub>. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the first bus bar 50A, to the second 20 conductor 36B, to the third contact 623 of the first relay 62, to the first contact  $62_1$  of the first relay 62, to the third contact 76<sub>3</sub> of the third relay 76, and/or to the pulse diode 78, which may energize the third coil 76A. Energizing the third coil 76A may cause the first contact 76<sub>1</sub> of the third relay 76 25 to disconnect from the second contact  $76_2$  and connect to the third contact  $76_3$ , which may connect the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 to the positive terminal 22A of the support assembly 22 via the second conductor 36B.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 6A 30 and 6B, a control circuit 52 may include a diode assembly **80**. The diode assembly **80** may include diodes (e.g., diodes 82<sub>1</sub>, 82<sub>2</sub>, 82<sub>3</sub>, 82<sub>4</sub>) and may or may not include electromechanical components such as relays and/or switches. The diode assembly 80 may be configured to connect the correct 35 may include one or more of a variety of configurations. The terminals 26A, 26B of the power source 26 to the appropriate support assembly terminals 22A, 22B (e.g., such that the first terminal 22A of the support assembly 22 is connected to the first terminal 26A of the power source 26 and the second terminal 22B is connected to the second terminal 40 **26**B of the power source **26**, regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22). The diode assembly 80 may include a first diode  $82_1$ , a second diode  $82_2$ , a third diode  $82_3$ , and/or a fourth diode  $82_4$ . The first diode  $82_1$ , the second diode  $82_2$ , the third diode  $82_3$ , and the fourth diode 45 82₄ may be connected as a bridge circuit. The first conductor **36A** may be connected between the first diode **82**<sub>1</sub> and the second diode 82<sub>2</sub>. The second conductor 36B may be connected between the third diode 82<sub>3</sub> and the fourth diode 82<sub>4</sub>. A diode assembly 80 may include and/or be connected 50 to one or more other passive electrical components (e.g., additional diodes or other components).

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 6A, if the support assembly 22 is in a first/forward orientation, the first conductor 36A may be connected to the first bus bar 55 50A and the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 and/or the second conductor 36B may be connected to the second bus bar 50B and the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the first conductor 60 **36**A, through the first diode **82**<sub>1</sub>, and to the first terminal **22**A of the support assembly 22. In the first orientation, the second diode 82<sub>2</sub> and/or the third diode 82<sub>3</sub> may block current from flowing from the positive terminal 26A to the second terminal 22B of the support assembly 22. In the first 65 orientation, current may flow from the second terminal 22B of the support assembly 22 through the fourth diode 82<sub>4</sub> to

the second conductor 36B, the second bus bar 50B, and/or the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 6B, if the support assembly 22 is in a second/rearward orientation, the first conductor 36A may be connected to the second bus bar 50B and the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26, and/or the second conductor 36B may be connected to the first bus bar 50A and the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A to the second conductor 36B, through the third diode 82<sub>3</sub> and to the first terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. In the second orientation, the first diode 82<sub>1</sub> and/or the fourth diode 82<sub>4</sub> may block current from flowing from the positive terminal 26A to the second 15 terminal 22B of the support assembly 22. In the second orientation, current may flow from the second terminal 22B of the support assembly 22 through the second diode 82, to the first conductor 36A, the second bus bar 50B, and/or the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 7A and 7B, a control circuit 52 may include a switch assembly 90. The switch assembly 90 may be configured to connect the power source 26 to the support assembly 22 with the correct polarity regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22. For example and without limitation, the switch assembly 90 may be configured to connect the correct terminals 26A, 26B of the power source 26 to the appropriate support assembly terminals 22A, 22B (e.g., such that the first terminal 22A of the support assembly 22 is connected to the first terminal 26A of the power source 26 and the second terminal 22B is connected to the second terminal 26B of the power source 26, regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22).

With embodiments, switches of the switch assembly 90 switch assembly 90 may include switches (e.g., the switch assembly 90 may or may not include electromechanical components such as electromechanical relays). For example and without limitation, the switch assembly 90 may include a first switch  $92_1$ , a second switch  $92_2$ , a third switch  $92_3$ , and/or a fourth switch 92<sub>4</sub> that may include silicon-based switches, transistors, and/or metal-oxide field effect transistors (MOSFETs), among other configurations. The first switch 92<sub>1</sub> may be connected to a first driver 94<sub>1</sub>, the second switch  $92_2$  may be connected to a second driver  $94_2$ , the third switch  $92_3$  may be connected to a third driver  $94_3$ , and/or the fourth switch  $92_{4}$  may be connected to a fourth driver  $94_4$ . The first switch  $92_1$ , the second switch  $92_2$ , the third switch  $92_3$ , and the fourth switch  $92_4$  may be connected as a bridge circuit. The drivers  $94_1$ ,  $94_2$ ,  $94_3$ ,  $94_4$  may be configured to activate the switches 92<sub>1</sub>, 92<sub>2</sub>, 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub>, respectively. The drivers 94<sub>1</sub>, 94<sub>2</sub>, 94<sub>3</sub>, 94<sub>4</sub> may not carry power, but may set the gate voltage of the switches  $92_1$ ,  $92_2$ , 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub> such that the switches 92<sub>1</sub>, 92<sub>2</sub>, 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub> may selectively open. The first conductor 36A may be connected between the first switch  $92_1$  and the second switch  $90_2$ . The second conductor 36B may be connected between the third switch  $92_3$  and the fourth switch  $92_4$ . The switch assembly 90 may include and/or be connected to one or more other passive electrical components (e.g., additional switches, one or more diodes, etc.).

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 7A, if the support assembly 22 is in a first/forward orientation, the first conductor 36A may be connected to the first bus bar 50A and the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26 and/or the second conductor 36B may be connected to the second bus bar 50B and the negative terminal 26B of the

power source 26. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the first conductor **36**A, and to the first switch  $92_1$  and the first driver  $94_1$ . The first driver 94, may activate the first switch 92, to allow current to flow to the first terminal 22A of the support 5 assembly 22. In the first orientation, the second switch 92<sub>2</sub> and/or the third switch 92<sub>3</sub> may not be activated and may block current from flowing from the positive terminal 26A to the second terminal 22B of the support assembly 22. In the first orientation, current may flow from the second 10 terminal 22B of the support assembly 22 to the fourth switch  $92_4$  and the fourth driver  $94_4$ . The fourth driver  $94_4$  may activate the fourth switch  $92_4$  to allow current to flow from the fourth switch 92<sub>4</sub> to the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26.

In embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIG. 7B, if the support assembly 22 is in a second/rearward orientation, the first conductor 36A may be connected to the second bus bar 50B and the negative terminal 26B of the power source 26, and/or the second conductor 36B may be con- 20 nected to the first bus bar 50A and the positive terminal 26A of the power source 26. Current may flow from the positive terminal 26A to the first bus bar 50A, to the second conductor 36B, and to the third switch 92<sub>3</sub> and the third driver  $94_3$ . The third driver  $94_3$  may activate the third switch  $92_3$  25 to allow current to flow to the first terminal 22A of the support assembly 22. In the second orientation, the first switch  $92_1$  and/or the fourth switch  $92_4$  may not be activated and may block current from flowing from the positive terminal 26A to the second terminal 22B of the support 30 assembly 22. In the second orientation, current may flow from the second terminal 22B of the support assembly 22 to the second switch  $92_2$  and the second driver  $94_2$ . The second driver 94<sub>2</sub> may activate the second switch 92<sub>2</sub> to allow current to flow to the first conductor **36A**, the second bus bar 35 **50**B, and/or the negative terminal **26**B of the power source **26**.

With embodiments, switches and drivers of a switch assembly 90 (e.g., switches 92<sub>1</sub>, 92<sub>2</sub>, 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub> and drivers 94<sub>1</sub>, 94<sub>2</sub>, 94<sub>3</sub>, 94<sub>4</sub>) may be configured for automatic activa- 40 tion (e.g., independent of any separate controllers, such as the ECUs **28**A, **28**B). If the correct polarity is provided to a switch and a driver, the driver may automatically activate the switch. If the reverse polarity is provided to the switch and the driver, the driver may not activate the switch. The 45 switches 92<sub>1</sub>, 92<sub>2</sub>, 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub> may, for example and without limitation, be connected in a bridge configuration.

In embodiments, a control circuit 52, a diode assembly 80, and/or a switch assembly 90 may include at least four electrical components (e.g., non-electromechanical compo- 50 nents) configured to connect the correct terminals 26A, 26B of the power source **26** to the appropriate support assembly terminals 22A, 22B regardless of the orientation of the support assembly 22.

7C and 7D, the first driver 94<sub>1</sub>, the second driver 94<sub>2</sub>, the third driver 94<sub>3</sub>, and the fourth driver 94<sub>4</sub> may be combined into any number of drivers to control the switches  $92_1$ ,  $92_2$ , 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub> (see, e.g., FIG. 7C for two drivers and see FIG. 7D for one driver). For example and without limitation, the first driver  $94_1$ , the second driver  $94_2$ , the third driver  $94_3$ , and the fourth driver 94<sub>4</sub> may be combined into a first driver 96<sub>1</sub> and a second driver 96<sub>2</sub> (see, e.g., FIG. 7C). The first driver  $96_1$  may be connected to the first switch  $92_1$  and the second switch 92<sub>2</sub>. The second driver 96<sub>2</sub> may be connected to the 65 third switch  $92_3$  and the fourth switch  $92_4$ . The first driver 96, may be configured to control/activate the first switch 92,

14

and the second switch  $92_2$ . The second driver  $96_2$  may be configured to control/activate the third switch 92, and the fourth switch  $92_4$ . In embodiments, the control circuit 52, may include a single driver 98 that may be configured to control/activate the first switch  $92_1$ , the second switch  $92_2$ , the third switch  $92_3$ , and the fourth switch  $92_4$  (see, e.g., FIG. 7D). The driver 98 may be connected to each of the switches 92<sub>1</sub>, 92<sub>2</sub>, 92<sub>3</sub>, 92<sub>4</sub>.

Embodiments of control circuits 52, such as the five embodiments illustrated in FIGS. 3A-3C, 4A and 4B, 5A and 5C, 6A and 6B, and 7A-7D, may include various advantages and/or potential drawbacks. The embodiment of FIGS. 3A-3C may, for example and without limitation, include a compact configuration, may involve medium cost, and may 15 involve a relatively low voltage drop, but may experience reduced relay life cycle (e.g., each maneuver of the support assembly 22 may actuate a relay) and/or may involve increased noise from the relays **62**, **64**. The embodiment of FIGS. 4A and 4B may, for example and without limitation, involve low cost, a relatively low voltage drop, a relative long relay life cycle/minimal relay noise (e.g., relays may only be actuated when a support assembly 22 is disposed in a second orientation), but may experience a reverse pulse from the power source 26 during an initial connection of the support member 30 with the track assembly 38. The embodiment of FIGS. 5A and 5B may, for example and without limitation, not involve a reverse pulse from the power source 26, but may involve a higher cost, a higher voltage drop, and/or may experience a shorter life cycle for the third relay 76 which may actuate for each maneuver of the support assembly 22. The embodiment of FIGS. 6A and 6B may, for example and without limitation, involve high cost, a relatively high voltage drop, a relatively long diode life (e.g., longer than the expected life of a vehicle), a no-noise and compact control circuit **52**. The embodiment of FIGS. 7A-7D may, for example and without limitation, involve a high cost, a relatively low voltage drop, minimum power waste, a longer circuit life (e.g., longer than the expected life of a vehicle), low or substantially no noise, and/or a compact control circuit 52.

In embodiments, an electrical assembly 20 may be configured to avoid a reverse polarity conduction, provide power to the support assembly 22 in the second/rearwardfacing configuration, and/or provide digital monitoring of the position of the support assembly 22.

With embodiments, a control circuit 52 may operate automatically, such as independently of the ECUs **28**A, **28**B. For example and without limitation, a control circuit 52 (e.g., a relay assembly) 60 may switch between states (e.g., a first state, a second state, and/or a third state) without being controlled by an ECU 28A, 28B. One or both of the ECUs 28A, 28B may be connected to the control circuit 52 and the connection may be a passive/monitoring connection. A control circuit 52 may be configured as a passive assembly With embodiments, such as generally illustrated in FIGS. 55 and may not involve a capacitor or internal energy storage.

In embodiments, a controller may include an electronic controller and/or include an electronic processor, such as a programmable microprocessor and/or microcontroller. In embodiments, a controller may include, for example, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). A controller may include a central processing unit (CPU), a memory (e.g., a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium), and/or an input/output (I/O) interface. A controller may be configured to perform various functions, including those described in greater detail herein, with appropriate programming instructions and/or code embodied in software, hardware, and/or other medium. In embodiments, a controller

may include a plurality of controllers. In embodiments, a controller may be connected to a display, such as a touch-screen display.

Various embodiments are described herein for various apparatuses, systems, and/or methods. Numerous specific 5 details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the overall structure, function, manufacture, and use of the embodiments as described in the specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It will be understood by those skilled in the art, however, that the embodiments may 10 be practiced without such specific details. In other instances, well-known operations, components, and elements have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the embodiments described in the specification. Those of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the embodiments described 15 and illustrated herein are non-limiting examples, and thus it can be appreciated that the specific structural and functional details disclosed herein may be representative and do not necessarily limit the scope of the embodiments.

Reference throughout the specification to "various 20 embodiments," "with embodiments," "in embodiments," or "an embodiment," or the like, means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment. Thus, appearances of the phrases "in various embodiments," 25 "with embodiments," "in embodiments," or "an embodiment," or the like, in places throughout the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Furthermore, the particular features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more 30 embodiments. Thus, the particular features, structures, or characteristics illustrated or described in connection with one embodiment/example may be combined, in whole or in part, with the features, structures, functions, and/or characteristics of one or more other embodiments/examples without limitation given that such combination is not illogical or non-functional. Moreover, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the present disclosure without departing from the scope thereof.

It should be understood that references to a single element are not necessarily so limited and may include one or more of such element. Any directional references (e.g., plus, minus, upper, lower, upward, downward, left, right, leftward, rightward, top, bottom, above, below, vertical, hori- 45 zontal, clockwise, and counterclockwise) are only used for identification purposes to aid the reader's understanding of the present disclosure, and do not create limitations, particularly as to the position, orientation, or use of embodiments.

Joinder references (e.g., attached, coupled, connected, and the like) are to be construed broadly and may include intermediate members between a connection of elements and relative movement between elements. As such, joinder references do not necessarily imply that two elements are 55 directly connected/coupled and in fixed relation to each other. The use of "e.g." in the specification is to be construed broadly and is used to provide non-limiting examples of embodiments of the disclosure, and the disclosure is not limited to such examples. Uses of "and" and "or" are to be 60 construed broadly (e.g., to be treated as "and/or"). For example and without limitation, uses of "and" do not necessarily require all elements or features listed, and uses of "or" are intended to be inclusive unless such a construction would be illogical.

While processes, systems, and methods may be described herein in connection with one or more steps in a particular **16** 

sequence, it should be understood that such methods may be practiced with the steps in a different order, with certain steps performed simultaneously, with additional steps, and/ or with certain described steps omitted.

It is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not limiting. Changes in detail or structure may be made without departing from the present disclosure.

It should be understood that a controller (e.g., controller), a system, and/or a processor as described herein may include a conventional processing apparatus known in the art, which may be capable of executing preprogrammed instructions stored in an associated memory, all performing in accordance with the functionality described herein. To the extent that the methods described herein are embodied in software, the resulting software can be stored in an associated memory and can also constitute means for performing such methods. Such a system or processor may further be of the type having both ROM, RAM, a combination of non-volatile and volatile memory so that any software may be stored and yet allow storage and processing of dynamically produced data and/or signals.

It should be further understood that an article of manufacture in accordance with this disclosure may include a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having a computer program encoded thereon for implementing logic and other functionality described herein. The computer program may include code to perform one or more of the methods disclosed herein. Such embodiments may be configured to execute one or more processors, multiple processors that are integrated into a single system or are distributed over and connected together through a communications network, and/or where the network may be wired or wireless. Code for implementing one or more of the features described in connection with one or more embodiments may, when executed by a processor, cause a plurality of transistors to change from a first state to a second state. A specific pattern of change (e.g., which transistors change state and which transistors do not), may be dictated, at least partially, by the logic and/or code.

What is claimed is:

- 1. An electrical assembly, including:
- a track assembly, including:
  - a first track having a first bus bar, the first bus bar configured for connection with a first terminal of a power source, and
  - a second track having a second bus bar, the second bus bar configured for connection with a second terminal of said power source;
- a control circuit including a first relay, a second relay, and a diode; and
- a support assembly configured for connection with the track assembly in a first orientation and in a second orientation, the support assembly including:
  - a positive terminal; and
  - a negative terminal;
- wherein the control circuit is configured to automatically connect the first bus bar to the positive terminal of the support assembly and connect the second bus bar to the negative terminal of the support assembly regardless of whether the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the first orientation or the second orientation.
- 2. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein the control circuit includes a second diode.

- 3. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein a first coil of the first relay and a second coil of the second relay are configured to be energized when electrically connected to the first bus bar.
- 4. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein if the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the first orientation, the diode is configured to permit current to flow to energize a first coil of the first relay.
- 5. The electrical assembly of claim 4, wherein if the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the second orientation, a second diode is configured to permit current to flow to energize a second coil of the second relay.
- 6. The electrical assembly of claim 1 wherein the control circuit is configured such that only one of a first coil of the first relay and a second coil of the second relay are energized at a time.
- 7. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein the support assembly includes a support member; the support member includes a conductor and an additional conductor; if the support assembly is in the first orientation, the conductor is configured to connect to the first bus bar and the additional conductor is configured to connect to the second bus bar; and, if the support assembly is in the second orientation, the conductor is configured to connect to the second bus bar and the additional conductor is configured to connect to the second bus bar and the additional conductor is configured to connect to the first bus bar.
- **8**. The electrical assembly of claim **7**, wherein if the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first bus bar is connected to the conductor and the control circuit is configured to connect the conductor to the positive terminal of the support assembly.
- 9. The electrical assembly of claim 8, wherein if the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first bus bar is connected to the additional conductor; and the control circuit is configured to connect the additional conductor to the positive terminal of the support assembly.
- 10. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein the support assembly includes the control circuit and the support 40 assembly is configured for removal from the track assembly in a vertical direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the track assembly.
- 11. The electrical assembly of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the first relay includes a first coil; the second relay includes a 45 second coil; and the diode is configured control current flow into the first coil and the second coil.
- 12. The electrical assembly of claim 11, wherein if the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first coil and the second coil are not energized, the first bus bar is connected to the positive terminal of the support assembly, and the second bus bar is connected to the negative terminal of the support assembly; and, if the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first coil and the second coil are energized, the first bus bar is connected to the positive terminal of the support assembly, and the second bus bar is connected to the negative terminal of the support assembly.
- 13. The electrical assembly of claim 1, An electrical assembly, including:
  - a track assembly, including:
    - a first track having a first bus bar, the first bus bar configured for connection with a first terminal of a power source, and
    - a second track having a second bus bar, the second bus 65 bar configured for connection with a second terminal of said power source;

18

- a control circuit and a support assembly configured for connection with the track assembly in a first orientation and in a second orientation, the support assembly including:
- a positive terminal; and
- a negative terminal;
- wherein the control circuit includes at least four nonelectromechanical electrical components including transistors and/or diodes; and
- wherein the control circuit is configured to automatically connect the first bus bar to the positive terminal of the support assembly and connect the second bus bar to the negative terminal of the support assembly regardless of whether the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the first orientation or the second orientation.
- 14. The electrical assembly of claim 1, wherein the control circuit includes a third relay and a second diode; the first relay includes a first coil; the second relay includes a second coil; the diode is connected to the first coil and the second coil; the third relay includes a third coil; and the second diode is connected to the third coil and the first relay.
- 15. The electrical assembly of claim 14, wherein the third coil is energized if the support assembly is in either of the first orientation or the second orientation.
- 16. The electrical assembly of claim 14, wherein if the support assembly is in the first orientation, the first coil and the second coil are not energized; and if the support assembly is in the second orientation, the first coil and the second coil are energized.
  - 17. The electrical assembly of claim 14, wherein the third relay is configured to compensate for a reverse pulse from said power source.
- 18. The electrical assembly of claim 14, wherein the diode is configured to permit current flow from first conductor to the first coil and the second coil when the support assembly is in the second orientation; and the diode is configured to restrict current flow through the first coil and the second coil when the support assembly is in the first orientation.
  - 19. The electrical assembly of claim 13, wherein the at least four non-electromechanical electrical components include diodes, including a first diode, a second diode, a third diode, and a fourth diode;
    - the first diode, the second diode, the third diode, and the fourth diode are connected in a bridge circuit configuration;
    - the positive terminal is connected to the first diode and the third diode; the negative terminal is connected to the second diode and the fourth diode;
    - a first conductor of the support assembly is connected between the first diode and the second diode; and
    - a second conductor of the support assembly is connected between the third diode and the fourth diode.
    - 20. An electrical assembly, including:
    - a track assembly, including:
      - a first track having a first bus bar, the first bus bar configured for connection with a first terminal of a power source, and
      - a second track having a second bus bar, the second bus bar configured for connection with a second terminal of said power source;
    - a control circuit and
    - a support assembly configured for connection with the track assembly in a first orientation and in a second orientation, the support assembly including:
      - a positive terminal; and
    - a negative terminal;

wherein the control circuit includes a switch assembly including a plurality of switches and at least one driver to automatically activate the plurality of switches; and wherein the control circuit is configured to automatically connect the first bus bar to the positive terminal of the support assembly and connect the second bus bar to the negative terminal of the support assembly regardless of whether the support assembly is connected to the track assembly in the first orientation or the second orientation.

**19** 

\* \* \* \*

**20**